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SUBSCRIPTIONS

FOR

THE NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL

MR. ROWLAND HILL,

AUTHOR OF THE PENNY POSTAGE,

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REVIEWS

Travels of Leo von Rozmital through the West of Europe, A.D. 1465—67.—[Reise, &c.]— Published by the Literary Union of Stuttgard. London, Williams & Norgate.

WE have already introduced to our readers the publications of the Stuttgard Literary Union, of which the seventh volume is now laid before us. Though hardly as amusing as the peregrinations of Felix Faber, through the Holy Land, [ante, p. 419,] this pilgrimage of the Bohemian nobleman, Leo von Rozmital, presents a curious con-trast to the tales of travellers in our days. Here trast to the tales of that the same and any stress no irreverent haste, in its railway flight, regardless of shrines, relics, and sanctuaries, and leaving behind, unnoticed, all the monuments of the past. Whatever were the political nego-tiations intrusted to the care of the noble pilpay his devotions at every hallowed spot. Of s supposed political errand we find nothing in the accounts given by his followers; their talk is of courts, tournaments, relics, and miracles. Leo was the brother-in-law of George, king

of Bohemia, and set out on his journey, pro-bably with some diplomatic mission, Nov. 26, 1465. Two accounts are given of his pilgrimage; one by a Bohemian, named Schaschek, and the other by one Tetzel, a native of Nuremberg. The original Bohemian is lost; but a Latin translation, made about a century after the journey, by Stanislaus Pawlowski, afterwards Bishop ney, by Stanislaus Pawlowski, anterwards Discip-of Olmutz, has been preserved, and is now pre-sented to us in this beautifully-printed volume. Schaschek seems to have been his master's ap-pointed chronicler; but we prefer the old-fashioned German of Tetzel, who writes apparently from memory, and in a more familiar and gossiping style. In one respect his memoranda may be a model for writers of travels, for their purely objective style. He never turns away from the curiosities presented to his notice in venerable relics, costly shrines, and splendid courts to indulge in sentiments or talk about himself. The contrast between the real and the ideal was not discovered in his day. The world seems to fit exactly to his mind. He utters no exclamations of disappointment, never breathes a hint of scepticism; but tells you great wonders with all the quiet assurance of a man who only states some obvious fact about the weather. "There are many goldsmiths in London," and "there is at London a crucifix which has been heard to speak," are equally common-place facts with Tetzel. It is the tale of wonder issuing from the lips contrasted with the quiet gravity settled upon the countenance, which gives to our old travellers their pleasing naïveté. In one point his narrative, like all old tales of travellers, isappoints us: he tells us little of the people; indeed, there were no people in his day. How could he foresee that we should ever be so unreasonably curious as to inquire how the common people fared, what sort of houses, beds, food, clothing, and furniture they had? He gives us the cream of his observations, in the shape of gay courts and dead men's bones, and leaves us to guess about such "thrice-skimmed sky-blue" as the lives and customs of ordinary people.

At Nuremberg our pilgrims stayed to enjoy their first treat of dry and mouldering relics. Thence they proceeded to Heidelberg, Frankfort, Mayence, and Cologne, where they attended the festival of the Three Kings. Next they journeyed to Brussels, Bruges, and Calais; then crossed the channel—" where the sea made my

"high, chalky mountains," and "a castle built by evil demons," (at Dover,) and landed at Sandwich, where "it is the custom for people to head. Behind her followed her mother and above go about the streets with music all night, shouting and telling from what point the wind blows." From Sandwich they hastened to the shrine of St. Thomas à Beckett, where they found an immense collection of precious relics; such were the curiosities of Canterbury in the olden time:-

Here we saw his sepulchre cast in pure gold, studded with gems, and enriched with such magni-ficent donations that I know of nothing equal to it. Among other precious things, there is a carbuncle, half the size of a hen's egg, which emits radiance during the night. All the relies of St. Thomas were shown to us—his head and the pillar before the chapel of the Virgin, beside which he used to pray, and, indeed, hold converse with the Blessed Virgin, as was seen and heard by many witnesses. But three hundred years have passed away since these things were done. In the convent there is a fountain, the water of which has been five times converted into blood, and once into milk; and this happened shortly before our visit. We saw, also, the head-dress of the Blessed Virgin, a fragment of the garment of Christ, and three thorns from his crown. Also, we beheld the shirt of St. Thomas, and his brain, and the blood of the Apostles St. Thomas and St. John; the sword with which St. Thomas of Canterbury was beheaded, a portion of the Virgin's hair, and a fragment from her sepulchre; also, part of the shoulder of St. Simeon, who held Christ in his arms, one of the legs of St. George, part of the body and bones of St. Lawrence, the leg of the virgin Recordia, and the leg of St. Mildred the Virgin. We saw, also, a tooth of John the Baptist, part of the cross of the Apostles Peter and Andrew, the bones of St. Philip and St. James the Apostles, a tooth and a finger of the martyr Stephen, the bones of St. Catherine the Virgin, and Stepnen, the bones of St. Catherine the Virgin, and some oil from her tomb, which, they say, flows to this day; also, the hair of the blessed Mary Magdalene, a tooth of St. Benedict, a finger of St. Urban, the lips of one of the infants slain by Herod, the bones of St. Clement, and the bones of St. Vincent. Besides these, many things were shown to us which I do not specify here.

A ghastly inventory! but we must turn to Tetzel for further notices of England in the

From Canterbury we rode through the kingdom of England to the head city, called Lund [London], where the King holds his court. It is a very brave and noble city, and carries on trade with all coun-tries. There is a multitude of people in it, many tradespeople, especially goldsmiths and cloth-makers tradespeople, especially goldsmiths and cioth-makers, and very beautiful women. In the city we found the King [Edward IV.] who, when he heard of my master's arrival, had a costly lodging-place prepared for him, and sent out to meet him his herald and some of his courtiers, with whom my Lord rode into the city. The King soon after invited my master to his court. Here we saw the very great reverence which his servants paid to him; great noblemen have to kneel hefore him. Also he eave his had to my. Lord and his noble companions. Then my Lord acquainted him with the purpose of his journey, and the King was very well pleased with it, and behaved very friendly towards my Lord. The King is a very proper, handsome man, and has the finest set of courtiers that a man may find in Christendom. After some days he invited my Lord Leo and all his noble companions, and gave them a very costly feast, and also he gave to each of them the medal of his order, to every knight a golden one and to every one who was not a knight a silver one, and he himself hung them upon their necks. Another day the King called us to court. In the morning the Queen [Elizabeth Woodville] went from child-bed to church with a splendid procession of many priests, bearing relics, and many scholars, all singing and carrying burning candles. Besides there was a great company of women and maidens from the country and from London, who were bidden to attend. There were also a great number of trumcrossed the channel—" where the sea made my lotters, pipers, and other players, with forty-two of the lord and his companions so ill that they lay on the deck like dead men,"—caught a sight of there were four and twenty heralds and pursuivants,

sixty ladies and maidens. Having heard the service sung, and kneeled down in the church, she returned with the same procession to her palace. Here all who had taken a part in the procession were invited to a feast, and all sat down, the men and the women, the clergy and the laity, each in his rank, filling four large rooms. Also, the King invited my Lord and all his noble attendants to the table where he usually dined with his courtiers. And one of the King's greatest lords must sit at the King's table, upon the King's stool, in the place of the King; and my Lord sat at the same table, only two steps below him. Then all the honours which were due to the King had to be paid to the lord who sat in his place, and also to my lord, and it is incredible what ceremonies we observed there. While we were eating, the King was making presents to all the trumpeters, pipers, players, and heralds; to the last alone he gave four players, and heralds; to the last alone he gave four hundred nobles, and every one when he received his pay, came to the tables and told aloud what the King had given him. When my lord had done eation, he was conducted into a costly, ornamented room, where the Queen was to dine, and there he was seated in a corner that he might see all the expensive provisions. The Queen sat down on a golden stool alone at her table, and her mother and the King's sister stood far below her. And when the Queen spoke to her mother or to the King's sister, they kneeled down every time before her, and remained kneeled down every time before her, and remained kneeling until the Queen drank water. And all her ladies and maids, and those who waited upon her, even great lords, had to kneel while she was eating, which continued three hours. (!) After dinner there was dancing; but the Queen remained sitting upon her stool, and her mother kneeled before her. King's sister danced with two dukes, and the beautiful dances and reverences performed before the Queen—the like I have never seen, nor such beautiful maidens. Among them were eight duchesses, and above thirty countesses and others, all daughters of great people. After the dance the King's singing men came in and sang. When the King heard mass sung in his private chapel, my lord was admitted. Then the King had his relics shown to us, and many Then the King had his relies shown to us, and many sacred things in London. Among them we saw a stone from the Mount of Olives upon which there is the foot-print of Jesus Christ, our Lady's girdle, and many other relies. * England is a small country, long and narrow, full of villages, towns, castles, woods, and cultivated fields. There are many wide heaths, in some parts affording pasturage, in others only reeds and rushes. The greatest produce of the land is in sheep. These find pasturage through summer and winter upon the heaths. There are also several parks, with many rare animals in them. Heath is burned instead of wood. There is little wine, corn, or wood there, save what is brought over the sea. The common people drink a liquor that is called "Al' selpir."

After a visit to the Duke of Clarence, Leo and his company embarked at Poole, and arrived in Brittany, where they were hospitably received by the Duke Francis II. They found Louis XI. retired in some little town about three days' journey from Tours, where his sister Magdalena lived, who was never seen to smile after the death of the young king of Bohemia, to whom she was betrothed:—

In this little town we could find no lodgings, nor In this little town we could find no lodgings, nor anywhere within two miles of it; so we stayed at a village about three miles from the town. On the third day the King of France (Louis XI.) invited my lord, treated him very kindly, bidding him demand whatever provisions he required, and introduced him to the queen. According to their fashion, the queen and all her maids embraced my lord in their arms, and each of them kissed him upon the mouth. This the king commanded, and would have it done. After that, the queen and all her maids gave their hands to all my lord's noble attendants, and conhands to all my lord's noble attendants, and con-ducted themselves in a very friendly way. The king had a rich feast prepared for my lord and all his company, and no man would believe all the costly rarities, silver plate, fine dainties, and noblemen and gentle-

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men serving at table, we had there. The king invited | my lord to visit Paris, and stay with him a year, or, at least, half a year. It was said the king had never shown such regard to any prince or nobleman, not even to the queen, as to my lord. He paid all the expenses of our lodging. The king is not a tall man, has black hair, a brown complexion, eyes deep set in his head, a long nose, and thin legs. They say he is an enemy to the Germans. His most favourite amusement is the chase; he likes to live in little places rather than in great towns, and has above sixty guards, who always keep watch in armour at the door of his chamber. The queen is a tolerably fair woman; but her maids are as beautiful as a man may find in Christendom. From the King of France we rode to Tours, which is a very handsome, well-built Here is the lady [Magdalena] who was betrothed to King Ladislaus, of Bohemia, but is now married to Gaston de Fois, whom the king has made chief magistrate of the town. My lord wished to see the lady; but when she heard that he was a Bohemian, and the king's brother, she would not see him. But in the morning we saw her in the church. She made no other reverence to my lord than a bow of the head. The Bohemians who came for her (as the bride of Ladislaus) stayed in this town, and set up their escutcheons here; but it is said she ordered them to be torn and covered with mire. It is also said that the lady has never been seen to smile since the death of King Ladislaus. She is of middle stature, and rather sallow under her eyes; but it is said she is now not half so fair as when she was betrothed to King Ladislaus.

From Tours they journeyed to Bordeaux, and from Gascony into Spain, which they found distracted with political contentions between John the Second of Aragon, and the supporters of his eldest son, Don Carlos, and between Henry the Fourth of Castile and his younger brother, Don Alonzo. This was no country for our pleasure-seeking, shrine-visiting pilgrims, and, accordingly, they hastened on their way to Portugal, and to the famous shrine of Compostella, apparently one of the chief objects of their journey. At Burgos they find food for their love of wonders in a story of a crucifix, which came to land, none knew whence, in a vessel:—

The holy bishop who took the crucifix out of the chest in which it lay, had four brothers, who were all Jews before this time, but afterwards they did not long continue so. They were all conyerted, and afterwards became bishops, leading a very saintly life, building many churches, and releasing many Christian prisoners out of the hands of the heathen. The eldest brother became such a holy man, that the crucifix would converse with him and bow to him.

In Almeida, as it appears, they found, with some difficulty, access to Henry the Second of Castile, of whom Tetzel gives no favourable character:—

The king entertains many of the heathen at his court, to whom he has given the land, having driven away many Christians. He eats, drinks, and dresses in the heathen fashion, is an enemy to Christians, a great sinner, and leads, altogether, an unchristian life. He invited my lord into his presence, after three days, and we found him, with his queen, seated upon the ground. The queen wondered greatly at the sight of our hair. She is a dark, handsome woman; but the king has an aversion to her. On account of his wickedness and persecution of the Christians, his subjects have set up his younger brother against him, and it is hoped that the old king will be driven out of the country. While we stayed with him we had many quarrels with the heathen, and were sometimes in peril. The king made no presents to my lord, nor would he pay the expenses of our lodgings. It was thought that he dare not do it for fear of the heathen; but he gave my lord passports through his kingdom.

After enjoying all the wonders of Compostella, the pilgrims rode as far as Cape Finisterre ("finis terre")—"the end of the world," as Tetzel calls it, where "nothing is to be seen but the sky and the water, and nobody knows what lies beyond;" but there is a story of certain galleys sent out by the King of Portugal to make disco-

veries, one of which only returned, after three years' absence, having lost the greater part of its crew, while the remainder were burnt black by the sun. We fear religious instruction has made no great progress in some countries since Tetzel's day:—

In Portugal there are many strange customs. The priests, in some parts, know nothing of Latin, and preach no other gospel save repeating the ten commandments and announcing the holy days; while, in some places, there is no confession save kneeling before the altar and saying over the "confiteer."

The slave trade in Portugal is noticed by the travellers. They passed by Madrid as a place of little importance, and rode to the convent of St. Jerome's order, among the hills of Guadaloupe, where they found abundance of their favourite luxuries,—relics and other holy materials:—

In this convent there are the most devout monks that I have ever seen, and the prior is a Ger-man. Their rule is very strict—whether seated in their cells, or standing in the church, or eating at table, or lying in bed, there is written up before them, "Thou must die." The monk, whether eating or singing in the choir, standing or lying down, must constantly think of this: this is their rule. And you see many of them, as they think of it, shedding tears. The convent is very rich, though for three miles all around it nothing grows, neither corn, nor fruits, nor wine; all must be procured from a distance. Here once happened a great miracle. A king of Castile came out against the convent, and surrounded it with his troops; for he would know the value of the treasures it contained. But God and our dear lady were so displeased with this, that they smote him and all his men with blindness. The king knew that this was from God, and prayed God and our lady that he might have his sight again, for which he would give to the convent everything within ten miles around it. As soon as he had made this vow, he and all his men recovered their sight. He kept his vow, and thus the convent is so very wealthy that I dare say you may find a couple of princes in Germany who could not boast such wealth as this convent.

In Toledo, our pilgrims stayed to admire the head of John the Baptist, and the most splendid illuminated Bible in the world. King John the Second received them hospitably in Saragossa; but, against his advice, they proceeded thence to Barcelona, through Catalonia, where there was an insurrection in favour of the Duke of Calabria. Next they journeyed through Montpellier and Avignon to Milan:—

Milan is a very fine and well-built city, where there are great tradesmen and many good handicraftsmen. And here is the finest fortress in Christendom. We saw, too, the excellent house of Cosmo de Medicis. There is a great population in the city, and it contains the ashes of St. Ambrose, who was bishop here in A.D. 1085.

At Neustadt (Vienna) Leo suffered from the traveller's greatest misfortune—atrophy of the purse:—

Here we remained eight days, and were entertained every day by the empress and her ladies with dancing, &c. The empress had great delight in the Portuguese dances, which my lord's lute-player introduced to her, and in the apes and blackamoors which her brother, the King of Portugal, had pre-sented to my lord. Also the king [Maximilian] would learn to play the lute and the Portuguese dances. But here my lord had consumed his money, and had to pawn a rich sleeve, valued at ten thousand guilders, for which a Jew in Neustadt gave him only about twelve hundred. Thence we rode to the King of Hungary, who refused to give my lord an When we entered Bohemia again, a procession of students, from Prague, bearing relics, with many of the clergy, the nobility, the common people, and a hundred trumpeters, came out to meet my lord. The queen, too, was looking out, and witnessed my lord's arrival. Then he was invited immediately to the court, with all his attendants, and the king and the queen came forward to meet him in a very friendly

Like all old travellers, as we have said, the

chronicler of Leo's pilgrimage disappoints us. He never dreamed that we should desire to know anything of the common-place circumstances of the people, or that the things most familiar and uninteresting to his eye—the everyday realities of the men and women of his day—would be most interesting to us. We follow him through many towns for notices of life in the olden time; but he turns away from all the life and movement around him to entertain us with apocryphal stories about dry bones.

A quaint Livonian rhymed chronicle, of some interest for German antiquaries, occupies the remainder of the volume.

Rambles and Recollections of an Indian Official, By Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Sleeman. 2 vols. Hatchard & Son.

THESE two sumptuous volumes contain little more than a collection of notes, jotted down without much regard to system, in the compara-tive leisure afforded to an Indian officer, during a journey from the banks of the Nerbudda river to the Himmaleh mountains, in search of health, in the years 1835 and 1836. The course of the author's journey carried him over a portion of the ground to which more recent events have given an interest and significance with us at home: but in the rapidly shifting drama of Indian politics, eight years introduce many new actors and a new action; and the notes which explain the relations of 1836, are insufficient to illustrate the episodes of 1844. The various historical sketches which are scattered throughout these pages, are too detached and fragmentary to give anything like a clear historic prospect over the ground which they survey; while the more limited purpose which they had in view -a partial and incidental explanation of the immediate status in quo—time, and its continual "revenges" on this troubled field, have baffled, by shifting the status and leaving the commentator far behind. Such is, of course, the necessary fate of recollections personal and arbitrary as these, over the field of a crowded and continuous action; and to have for the public the interest which they presented to the author when he wrote, they should have been offered at the time when they were written. Of a completed history, or a drama wound up, the reader can, in his study, turn to any single page—savour its philosophy, drink of its poetry, and lend himself to its romance:-but he cannot turn complacently to the perusal of a past scene, while the actors are playing before him a later act. The nature of the author's plan, however, while it takes from the value of the historic portions of his volumes, gives us something in compensation. Not at all pro-fessing to offer anything like a complete view of Indian society or morals, the writer yet, in his occasional manner, throws many clear lights on both, and offers many valuable suggestions for their reformation. Making no attempt at ornament in his style—the only thing, by the way, which is not ornamental about these volumeshe conveys the impression of one of those active, well-informed and intelligent officers-seeing clearly the things about them, and reading them in an earnest spirit-which the Indian service has produced in such abundance. Taking his themes just as they present themselves, we have a little of everything in his volumes. The strange wild legends and superstitions of the Hindoos, the magnificent remains of Mohammedan architecture, the romantic incidents of Indian biography and picturesque views of Indian life and character, mingle with speculations moral and philosophical, accounts historical and statiscal, statements economical and reminiscences personal,—in a combination including both amusement and information, though classing neither. The whole is addressed to his sister,

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at home; and, to make it a worthy offering to accost her by the name which we consider to be at home; and, to make it a worthy offering from an Indian official to a lady, it is produced in a style of magnificence quite oriental. Paper, type, and binding, are all so many luxuries,—exalting the imagination out of the common world of the publisher's calculations, and suggesting the influence of the land of rupees and.

The coloured litheographs the indian pagodas. The coloured lithographs that illustrate the volumes-in a rich profusion which proves that cost has not been considered—are effective and splendid presentments of the mag-nificent architecture of the East, and would alone make the work valuable. The Colonel does not say that the drawings are his own; but the elaborate details are rendered in them with a clearness and precision that enrich the general effect. It is evident that, with a book of this rambling character,—since we cannot transfer any of is pictorial additions to our pages—the best thing that we can do, both for its own illustration and the entertainment of our readers, is to offer the latter some extracts from the variety in which it

The Nerbudda, as our readers probably know, isone of the sacred rivers of India—indeed, considered more holy than the Ganges herself; since the benefit of the great stream can only be obtained through actual contact with its waters (bathing or drinking), while the mere view of the Nerbudda from a distant hill-top blesses and purifies. The sanctity of the Ganges too, is, it appears, wearing out, in a ratio equal to the increasing holiness of the Nerbudda; and in half a century more, the latter is to supersede the former as the great sacred river of India. With a destiny so high before it, our readers may like to know the legend of the Nerbudda:—

"The legend is, that the Nerbudda, which flows was into the gulf of Cambay, was wooed and won in the usual way by the Sohun river, which rises from the same table land of Omnrkuntuk, and flows east into the Ganges and Bay of Bengal. All the previous ceremonies having been performed, the Sohun came with due 'pomp and circumstance' to fetch his bride, in the procession called the Burraet, up to which time the bride and bridegroom are supposed never to have seen each other, unless perchance they may have met in infancy. Her majesty the Nerbudda became exceedingly impatient to know what sort of a personage her destinies were to be linked to, while his majesty the Sohun advanced at a slow and stately pace. At last the Queen sent Jhola, the daughter of the barber, to take a close view of him, and to return and make a faithful and particular report of his person. His majesty was captivated with the little Jhola, the barber's daughter, at first sight; and she, 'nothing loath,' yielded to his caresses. Some say that she actually pretended to be Queen herself; and that his majesty was no further in fault, than in mistaking the humble handmaid for her noble mistress; but, be that as it may, her majesty no sooner heard of the good understanding between them, than she rushed forward, and with one foot sent the Sohun rolling back to the east whence he came, and with the other kicked little Jhola sprawling after him: for, said the high priest who told us the story, 'you see what a towering passion she was likely to have been in after suffering such indignities, from the furious manner in which she cuts her way through the marble rocks beneath us, and casts huge masses right and left as she goes along, as if they were really so many cocoa-nuts!' 'And was she,' asked I, 'to have flown eastward with him, or was he to have flown westward with her? 'She was to have accompanied him east-ward,' said the high priest; 'but her majesty, after this indignity, declared that she would not go a single pace in the same direction with such wretches, and would flow west, though all the other rivers in India might flow east: and west she flows accordingly, a virgin queen!' I asked some of the Hindoos about angin queen! 'I asked some of the Hindoos about us why they called her Mother Nerbudda, if she was really never married. 'Her majesty,' said they with great respect, 'would really never consent to be married, after the indignity she suffered from her affisanced bridegroom, the Sohun; and we call her mother because she blesses us all, and we are anxious

at once the most respectful and endearing." * * The Sohun river, which rises near the source of the Nerbudda on the table-land of Omurkuntuk, takes a westerly course for some miles, and then turns off suddenly to the east, and is joined by the little stream of the Jhola before it descends the great cascade; and hence the poets have created this fiction, which the mass of the population receive as divine revela-tion. The statue of little Jhola, the barber's daughter, in stone, stands in the temple of the goddess Nerbudda at Omurkuntuk, bound in chains. It may here be remarked, that the first overtures of marriage in India must always be made through the medium of the Barber, whether they be from the prince or the peasant. If a sovereign prince sends proposals to a sovereign princess, they must be conveyed through the medium of the Barber, or they will never be considered as done in due form, or as likely to prove pro-The prince will, of course, send some relation or high functionary with him; but in all the credentials the Barber must be named as the principal functionary. Hence it was that her majesty was supposed to have sent a Barber's daughter to meet her husband."

The dreadful association known under the name of Thugs the Indian government has, we believe, entirely succeeded in putting down; and our readers, some years ago, heard so much of its terrible practices, that we pass over some curious cases of Thuggery recorded in these volumes. But the Dhutooreeas, or professional poisoners, still infest (or did at the time of which our author writes) the Indian roads,—and offer an example almost as revolting of the low value at which human life is rated in the East. The very circumstance which renders the example a less fearful one-the want of combination among the criminals—renders the action of the government upon them less powerful for suppression. The poisoner is a solitary vagabond, or party of vagabonds; and the trifling booty that, in other lands, tempts the hungry wayfarer to pilfer at the barn-door, is with him sufficient motive for the commission of murder. An instance came under the notice of Colonel Sleeman, in which the particulars

were related by the sufferer himself:-"I reside in my hut by the side of the road, a mile and a half from the town, and live upon the bounty of travellers, and people of the surrounding villages. About six weeks ago, I was sitting by the side of my shrine after saying prayers, with my only son, about ten years of age, when a man came up with his wife, his son, and his daughter, the one a little older, and the other a little younger than my boy. They baked and ate their bread near my shrine, and gave me flour enough to make two cakes. This I prepared and baked. My boy was hungry, and ate one cake and a half. I ate only half a one, for I was not hungry. I had a few days before purchased a new blanket for my boy, and it was hanging in a branch of the tree my boy, and it was hanging in a branch of the tree that shaded the shrine, when these people came. My son and I soon became stupified. I saw him fall asleep, and I soon followed. I awoke again in the evening, and found myself in a pool of water. I had sense enough to crawl towards my boy! I found him still breathing; and I sat by him with his head in my lap, where he soon died. It was now evening, and I got up, and wandered about all night picking up straws—I know not why. I was not yet quite sensible. During the night the wolves ate my poor boy. I heard this from travellers, and went and gathered up his bones and buried them in the shrine. I did that some washerwomen had put me into the pool, and left me there with my head out, in hopes that this would revive me; but they had no hope of my son. I was then taken to the police of the town; son. I was then taken to the police of the town; but the landholders had begged me to say nothing about the poisoners, lest it might get them and their village community into trouble. The man is tall and fair, and about thirty-five; the woman short, stout, and fair, and about thirty, two of her teeth projected a good deal; the boy's cyclids were much diseased."

* I found all the poor man stated to be true; the man and his wife had mixed poison with the flour to

destroy the poor old man and his son for the sake of the new blanket which they saw hanging in the branch of the tree, and carried away with them. The poi-son used on such occasions is commonly the dutorn, and it is sometimes given in the hookah to be smoked, and at others in food. When they require to poison and at others in food. When they require to poson children as well as grown-up people, or women who do not smoke, they mix up the poison in food. The intention is almost always to destroy life, as 'dead men tell no tales;' but the poisoned people sometimes recover, as in the present case, and lead to the detection of the poisoners. The cases in which they recover are, however, rare; and of those who recover few are ever able to trace the poisoners; and of those who recover and trace them, very few will ever undertake to prosecute them through the several courts of the magistrate, the sessions, and that of last instance in a distant district, to which the proceedings

must be sent for final orders."
"Hundreds," says the author, "gain their subsistence in India by this trade alone," and hundreds are its yearly victims—the habit of cooking, eating, and sleeping, on the side of the road, and of smoking with strangers of seemingly the same caste, offering, unhappily, abundant facilities to the murderers. Human sacrifices, in the name of religion, the influence of British rule has nearly succeeded in abolishing—the lingering suttee superstition being perhaps their only surviving form. Our author, however, asserts that human victims were certainly offered in the city of Saugor, during the whole of the Murhutta government, up to 1800; and he reports a curious argument for a vested interest in the same, not greatly different from the logic which has defended many a wholesale human sacrifice further west :--

"I once heard a very learned Brahmin priest say, "I once heard a very learned Branmin priest say, that he thought the decline of his family and government arose from this innovation. 'There is, said he, 'no sin in not offering human sacrifices to the gods where none have been offered; but where the gods have been accustomed to them, they are very naturally annoyed when the rite is abolished, and visit the

rally annoyed when the rite is abolished, and visit the place and people with all kinds of calamities."

The form of voluntary sacrifice recorded in the following instance is, we hope, extinct—the author expressing some doubt on the subject:—

"The Mahadeo sand-stone hills, which in the Sathpore range overlook the Nerbudda to the south, with the sathpore range overlook the Nerbudda to the south,

rise to between four and five thousand feet above the level of the sen; and in one of the highest parts a fair was formerly, and is, perhaps, still held for the enjoyment of those who assemble to witness the selfdevotion of a few young men, who offer themselves as a sacrifice, to fulfil the yows of their mothers! When a woman is without children she makes votive When a woman is without children she makes votive offerings to all the gods who can, she thinks, assist her; and promises of still greater in case they should grant what she wants. Smaller promises being found of no avail, she at last promises her first-born, if a male, to the god of destruction, Mahadeo. If she gets a son, she conceals from him her vows till he has attained the age of puberty; she then communicates it to him, and enjoins him to fulfil it. He believes it to be his paramount duty to obey his mother's call; and from that moment he considers himself as deand from that moment he considers himself as devoted to the god. Without breathing to any living soul a syllable of what she has told him, he puts on soul a syllable of what she has told him, he puts on the habit of a pilgrim or religious mendicant—visits all the celebrated temples dedicated to this god in different parts of India,—and at the annual fair on the Mahadeo hills, throws himself from a perpendicular height of four or five hundred feet, and is dashed to pieces upon the rocks below! If the youth does not feel himself quite prepared for the sacrifice on the first visit, he spends another year in pilgrimages, and returns to fulfil his mother's vow at the next fair. Some have, I believe, been known to postpone the sacrifice to a third fair; but the interval is always spent in painful pilgrimages to the celebrated temples of the god."

To come to matter more attractive:—the

To come to matter more attractive:—the second volume of this work contains no less than six different views of the famous Taj Mahul—or Tomb of the Queen Noor Mahul: -and surely if the exclamation of Colonel Sleeman's wife, "I would die to-morrow to have such another over me!" could be made rational by anything, it might be so by a magnificence like this-which will, at any rate, justify it as a mere form for the expression of enthusiastic admiration. Our readers will thank us for letting the author talk a good deal about this tomb:-

"On the 1st of January, 1836, we went on sixteen miles to Agra, and when within about six miles of the city, the dome and minaret of the Taj opened upon us from behind a small grove of fruit trees, close by us on the side of the road. The morning was not clear, but it was a good one for a first sight of this building, which appeared larger through the dusty haze than it would have done through a clear sky. For five and twenty years of my life had I been looking forward to the sight now before me. Of no building on earth had I heard so much as of this, which contains the remains of the Emperor Shah Jehan, and his wife. . . We had ordered our tents to be pitched in the gardens of this splendid mausoleum, that we might have our full of the enjoyment which everybody seemed to derive from it; and we reached them about eight o'clock. I went over the whole building before I entered my tent; and from the first sight of the dome and minarets on the distant horizon, to the last glance back from my tentropes to the magnificent gateway that forms the entrance from our camp to the quadrangle in which they stand, I can truly say that everything surpassed my expectations. I at first thought the dome formed too large a portion of the whole building; that its neck was too long and too much exposed; and that the minarets were too plain in their design; but after going repeatedly over every part, and examining the tout ensemble from all possible positions, and in all possible lights, from that of the full moon at midnight in a cloudless sky, to that of the noon-day sun, the mind seemed to repose in the calm persuasion that there was an entire harmony of parts, a fault-less congregation of architectural beauties, on which it could dwell for ever without fatigue. After my quarter of a century of anticipated pleasure, I went on from part to part in the expectation that I must, by-and-by, come to something that would disappoint me; but no, the emotion which one feels at first is never impaired: on the contrary, it goes on improving from the first coup d'wil of the dome in the distance, to the minute inspection of the last flower upon the screen round the tomb. One returns and returns to it with undiminished pleasure; and though at every return one's attention to the smaller parts becomes less and less, the pleasure which he derives from the contemplation of the greater, and of the whole collectively, seems to increase; and he leaves it with a feeling of regret, that he could not have it all his life within his reach; and of assurance that the image of what he has seen can never be obliterated from his mind 'while memory holds her seat.' The slab over the Queen occupies the centre of the apartments above, and in the vault below, and those over her husband lie on the left as we enter. At one end of the slab in the vault, her name is inwrought, 'Moontaj i mahul, Ranoo Begum,' the ornament of the palace, Ranoo Begum; and the date of her death, 1631. That of her husband and the date of his death, 1666, are inwrought upon the other. She died in giving birth to a daughter, who is said to have been heard crying in the womb by herself and her other daughters. She sent for the Emperor, and told him, 'that she believed no mother had ever been known to survive the birth of a child so heard, and that she felt her end was near. She had, she said, only two requests to make: first, that he would not marry again after her death, and get children to contend with hers for his favour and dominions; and secondly, that he would build for her the tomb with which he had promised to perpetuate her name.' She died in giving birth to the child, as might have been expected, when the Emperor in his anxiety called all the midwives of the city, and all his secretaries of state and privy counsellors to prescribe for her! Both her dying requests were granted. Her tomb was commenced upon immediately. No woman ever pretended to supply her place in the palace; nor had Shah Jehan, that we know of, chil-dren by any other. Tavernier saw this building commenced and finished; and tells us, that it occu-

pied twenty thousand men for twenty-two years. The mausoleum itself and all the buildings that appertain to it, cost 3,17,48026, three crore, seventeen lacks, forty-eight thousand and twenty-six rupees, or 3,174,802 pounds sterling ;-three million, one hundred and seventy-four thousand, eight hundred and two! * * The band of our friend Major Godby's regiment played sometimes in the evening upon the terrace of the Taj; but of all the complicated music ever heard upon earth, that of a flute blown gently in the vault below, where the remains of the Emperor and his consort repose, as the sound rises to the dome amidst a hundred arched alcoves around, and descends in heavenly reverberations upon those who sit or recline upon the cenotaphs above the vault, is perhaps the finest to an inartificial ear. We feel as if it were from heaven, and breathed by angels; it is to the ear what the building itself is to the eye; but unhappily it cannot, like the building, live in our recollections. All that we can, in after life, remember is, that it was heavenly, and produced heavenly emotions."

We might have been tempted to linger amid the similar scenes of oriental magnificence on which our author dwells with so much delightand which he illustrates so splendidly-as also to give some of his striking instances of those strange mutations of fortune so common in the East-which, like the changes in a pantomime, substitute the palace for the hovel, and make Cinderella a princess-but that we desire, like the Colonel himself, to give the future its place in our pages as well as the past-and to hasten on to some of those more important remarks which affect the character of our country's influence in India. The following statement of a very serious obstacle to the conversion of the Hindoos, in the difficulty of presenting Christianity to them with the authority of a revelation, is worth the consideration of the Christian missionary:

"Father Gregory, the Roman Catholic priest. dined with us one evening, and Major Godby took occasion to ask him at table, 'What progress our re-ligion was making among the people?' 'Progress!' said he; 'why what progress can we ever hope to make among a people, who, the moment we begin to talk to them about the miracles performed by Christ, begin to tell us of those infinitely more wonderful performed by Krishna, who lifted a mountain upon his little finger, as an umbrella, to defend his shepherdesses, at Gwerdham, from a shower of rain? The Hindoos never doubt any part of the miracles and prophecies of our scripture—they believe every word of them; and the only thing that surprises them is, that they should be so much less wonderful than those of their own scriptures, in which also they implicitly believe. Men who believe that the histories of the wars and amours of Ram and Krishna, two of the incarnations of Vishnoo, were written some fifty thousand years before these wars and amours actually took place upon the earth, would of course easily believe in the fulfilment of any prophecy that might be related to them out of any other book; and, as to miracles, there is absolutely nothing too extraordinary for their belief. If a Christian of respectability were to tell a Hindoo, that, to satisfy some scruples of the Corinthians, St. Paul had brought the sun and moon down upon the earth, and made them rebound off again into their places, like tennis balls, without the slightest injury to any of the three planets, I do not think he would feel the slightest doubt of the truth of it; but he would immediately be put in mind of something still more extraordinary that Krishna did to amuse the milk-maids, or to satisfy some sceptics of his day, and relate it with all the naïveté imaginable."

What follows may be read with advantage elsewhere than in India-but seems to involve very sensible and important advice for that meridian :-

"The best of us Europeans feel our deficiencies in conversation with Mahomedans of high rank and education, when we are called upon to talk upon subjects beyond the every-day occurrences of life. A Mahomedan gentleman of education is tolerably well acquainted with astronomy as it was taught by Ptolemy; with the logic and ethics of Aristotle and

Plato, with the works of Hippocrates and Galen-through those of Avicenna, or as they call him, Booalee Shena; and he is very capable of talking upon all subjects of philosophy, literature, science and the arts, and very much inclined to do so, and of understanding the nature of the improvements that have been made in them in modern times. But, however capable we may feel of discussing these sub jects, or explaining these improvements in our own language, we all feel ourselves very much at a loss when we attempt to do it in theirs. Perhaps few Europeans have mixed and conversed more freely with all classes than I have: and yet I feel myself sadly deficient when I enter, as I often do, into discussions with Mahomedan gentlemen of education, upon the subject of the character of the governments and institutions of different countries_their effects upon the character and condition of the people; the arts and the sciences; the faculties and operations of the human mind; and the thousand other things which are subjects of every day conversation amon educated and thinking men in our own country. I feel that they could understand me quite well if I could find words for my ideas; but these I cannot find, though their languages abound in them; nor have I ever met the European gentleman who could. East Indians can; but they commonly want the ideas, as much as we want the language. The chief cause of this deficiency is the want of sufficient intercourse with men in whose presence we should be ashamed to appear ignorant—this is the great secret, and all should know and acknowledge it! We are not ashamed to convey our orders to our native servants in a barbarous language. Military officers seldom speak to their Sepahees and native officers about anything but arms, accoutrements, and drill; or to other natives about anything but the sports of the field; and as long as they are understood, they care not one straw in what language they express themselves. The conversation of the civil servants with their native officers takes sometimes a wider range; but they have the same philosophical indifference as to the language in which they attempt to convey their ideas; and I have heard some of our highest diplomatic characters talking, without the slightest feeling of shame or embarrassment, to native princes, on the most ordinary subjects of every day's interest, in a language which no human being but themselves could understand. We shall remain the same, till some change of system inspire us with stronger motives to please and conciliate the educated classes of the native community. They may be reconciled, but they can never be charmed out of their prejudices or the errors of their preconceived opinions by such language as the European gentlemen are now in the habit of speaking to them. We must learn their language better, or we must teach them our own, before we can venture to introduce among them those free institutions which would oblige us to meet them on equal terms at the bar, on the bench, and in the

The author has some important remarks on the morality of the native Indians; and while bearing emphatic testimony to their veracity in all their natural relations, and contrasting that virtue with the falsehood which pervades all their relations with the government, he has a great many things to say which they would do well to take to heart who have the destinies of so large a portion of the human race in their keeping. One observation only we will quote here-which might be successfully applied at home, ere it is carried abroad, for the benefit of the Hindoo:

"I have heard that a prince commanded the execution of a captive who was brought before him; when the captive having no hope of life, told the prince, that he disgraced his throne. The prince, not understanding him, turned to one of his minis ters and asked what he had said. 'He says,' replied the minister, quoting a passage from the Koran, 'God loves those who subdue their passions, forgive injuries, and do good to his creatures.' The prince pitied the poor captive, and countermanded the orders for the execution. Another minister, who owed a spite to the one who first spoke, said, 'Nothing but truth should be spoken by such persons as we in the presence of the prince; the captive spoke

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abusively and insolently, and you have not inter-preted his words truly. The prince frowned, and said, 'His false interpretation pleases me more than thy true one; because his was given for a good and ny true one; necause his was given for a good and thine for a malignant purpose; and wise men have said, that 'a peace-making lie is better than a factions or anger-exciting truth.' * * European gentlemen in India often, by their violence, surround themselves with circles of the same kind, in which the capit of honours demand that 'are in the forest of the same kind, in which the point of honour' demands, that every member shall be prepared to tell 'peace-making lies,' to save the others from the effects of their master's ungovernable passions; falsehood is their only safeguard, and, consequently, falsehood ceases to be odious. Countenanced in the circles of the violent, falsehood soon becomes countenanced in those of the mild and forbearing; their domestics pretend a dread of their anger which they really do not feel; and they gain redit for having the same good excuse among those who have no opportunity of becoming acquainted with the real character of the gentlemen in their domestic relations—all are thought to be more or less tigerish in these relations, particularly before breakfast, because some are known to be so."

One extract more—to bring us back, ere we close, to the romance of Indian life, with its golden dreams and profuse bounties. There is golden dreams and profuse bounties. no such scattering of men's hoarded wealth in the festivals of the West. We have nothing oriental in our tastes or manners :-

"The Rajah's young sister had just been married to the son of the Jat chief of Naba, who was accompanied in his matrimonial visit (berat) by the chief of Ludora, and the son of the Seikh chief of Puteealee, with a cortège of one hundred elephants and above fifteen thousand people. The young chief of Balumgur mustered a cortege of sixty elephants and about ten thousand men, to attend him out in the Istackbal, to meet and welcome his guests. The bridegroom's party had to expend about six hundred thousand rupees in this visit alone. They scattered copper money all along the road from their homes to within seven miles of Balumgur. From this point to the gate of the fort they had to scatter silver; and from this gate to the door of the palace they scat-tered gold and jewels of all kinds. The son of the Putcealee chief, a lad of about ten years of age, sat upon his elephant, with a bag containing six hundred gold mohurs, of two guineas each, mixed up with an infinite variety of gold earrings, pearls, and precious stones, which he scattered in handfuls among the crowd. The scattering of the copper and silver had been left to inferior hands. The costs of the family of the bride are always much greater than that of the bridegroom. They are obliged to entertain, at their own expense, all the bridegroom's guests as well as their own, as long as they remain; and over and above this, on the present occasion, the Rajah gave a rupee to every person that came, invited or uninvited. An immense concourse of people had assembled to share in this donation, and to scramble for the money scattered along the road; and ready money enough was not found in the treasury. Before money enough was not found in the treasury. Before a further supply could be got, thirty thousand more had collected, and every one got his rupee. They have them all put into pens like sheep. When all are in the doors are opened at a signal given, and every person is paid his rupee as he goes out. Some ean gentlemen were standing upon the top of the Rajah's palace, looking at the procession as it entered the fort, and passed underneath; and the young chief threw up some handfuls of pearls, gold, and jewels among them. Not one of them would of course condescend to stoop to take up any; but their servants showed none of the same dignified for-

With this page out of the 'Arabian Tales,' we must take our leave of these volumes.

Three Books of Polydore Vergil's English His-tory, comprising the Reigns of Henry VI., Edward IV., and Richard III., from an early Translation preserved among the MSS. of the old Royal Library in the British Museum. Edited by Sir Henry Ellis. Printed for the Camden Society.

Polydore Vergil, according to Sir Henry Ellis, was a native of Urbino, in Italy, and made him-

self first known to the literary world by his publication of a collection of proverbs, 'Proverbi-orum Libellus,' printed at Venice in 1498. "It was the first attempt of the kind, and the author was subsequently not a little mortified when Erasmus claimed that same priority for his 'Adaja." His second work was a treatise, 'De Inventoribus Rerum. This also was the first publication of its class, subsequent to the revival of letters; and it was translated into several languages. About the year 1501, he, being chamberlain to Pope Alexander VI., was sent to England as sub-collector of the tribute called Peter's Pence, and here he remained until a short time before his death. Henry VII, seems to have greatly patronized him. He became a prebend-Wells, and in the following reign a friend of Wolsey, and an assistant in procuring him his cardinal's hat. He, however, soon after fell into disgrace, and was imprisoned; in 1517 he obtained his liberty, and his 1525 million that the dagatee, and was imprisoned; in 1917 he obtained his liberty, and in 1525 published the first genuine edition of Gildas—a fact not generally known. In 1534, his chief work, which had been undertaken at the request of Henry VII., —his English History, appeared. This was in Latin, published at Basle, and dedicated to Henry VIII.

While we willingly allow a high degree of literary merit to this work, we cannot agree with Sir Henry Ellis as to its historical value. A foreigner, unacquainted, until he set about his imposed task, with English character or customs, and dependent, therefore, in a great degree on others, writing at a court where he had already received preferment and was looking for more, writing, too, at the express request of the reigning monarch, could not be impartial. We, therefore, although he wrote "whilst many of the persons alluded to in the events of the reigns of Edward IV. and Richard III. were alive, and who communicated with him," can view this in no other light than a Tudor version of history. As might be expected, Richard is charged with every crime laid to his account by Sir Thomas More. That he killed his wife, although whether by "sorrowfulness or poison" is not quite cer-tain, is told as an undoubted fact; and the story of "horryble images, as it were evil spirites haunting evidently about him," which disturbed his last night's rest, is also duly set down. Indeed, so glaring is the Tudor bias, that the gallant determination of the last Plantagenet to die on the battle field, is thus related:

"The report is that King Richerd might have sowght to save himself by flight; for they who wer abowt him, seing the soldiers even from the first stroke to lyft up, ther weapons febly and fayntlye, and soome of them to depart the feild pryvyly, suspected treason, and exhortyd him to flye, yea and whan the matter began manyfestly to qwalle, they brought him swyft horses; but he, who was not ignorant that the people hatyd him, owt of hope to have any better hap afterward, ys sayd to have awnsweryd, that that very day he wold make end ether of warre or lyfe, suche great fearcenesse and suche huge force of mynd he had: wherfor, knowinge certainely that that day wold ether yeald him a peaceable and quyet realme from thencefurth or els perpetually bereve him the same, he came to the fielde with the crowne uppon his head, that therby he might ether make a beginning or ende of his raigne. And so the myserable man had suddaynly suche end as wont ys to happen to them that have right and law both of God and man in lyke estimation, as will, impyetic, and wick-ednes. Surely these are more vehement examples by muche than ys able to be utteryd with toong to tereyfy those men which suffer no time to passe free from soome haynous offence, creweltie, or mischief."

These "vehement examples" had, however, no influence on his successor, Henry VII., nor on his ferocious son.

ing; but Polydore Vergil is too evidently "an indentured servaunte" of the Tudors to be a safe guide along this intricate portion of our history.

The Crescent and the Cross; or, Romance and Realities of Eastern Travel. By E. Warbur-ton, Esq. 2 vols. Colburn.

Another book on the East,—not so brilliant as 'Eathen,'—indeed serious, and, we must say, somewhat—dull written, perhaps, with more of sincerity, though not necessarily therefore more of truth. We have here no rapid glances—no sudden thoughts-no accidental associations; but a sober, solidly digested narrative, a statement of facts, ostensibly directed to the positive end of instruction, but failing of its accomplishment. The author, too, has his prejudices—indeed, indicates his nationality at every opportunity. He sees well enough, and pities, the superstition of the Moslem, but he is blind and partial to his own. He apologizes, however, for the slave-market, and sees in the slave-dealer only a new-poor-law guardian; but even here he loses sight, in the analogy, of the specific difference, and thus under-states the evil which is the subject of comparison. The consistency of slavery with social order is the great grievance: he alleges it as its recommendation, because, forsooth, it does not make the slave an outlaw from humanity, as in America. Better if it did; for then there is a chance of the evil ceasing: where it remains in harmony with the social system, it may be eternal, having made mere animals of all engaged, and thus in fact outlawed them equally from European and American, if not Asiatic or African humanity. Evidence abundant this, that our traveller, though he has good eyes and some understanding, has very little philosophy. The low tone of his mind is apparent in the following extract:—

"Born and brought up in the hareem, women never seem to pine at its imprisonment; like cageborn birds, they sing among their bars, and discover in their aviaries a thousand little pleasures invisible to eyes that have a wider range. There are no literary ladies: knowing not the thoughts of others, they associate the more with their own; and who can tell what wild and beautiful regions of imagination their what wild and beautiful regions of imagination their minds may wander through, unimprisoned, if undi-rected by education? To them, in their calm seclu-sion, the strifes of the battling world come softened and almost hushed; they only hear the far-off mur-mur of life's stormy sea, and, if their human lot dooms them to their cares, they are as transient as those of

Is it as well, then, to be ignorant as educated, to be imprisoned as free, to be children as women? Are maturity and immaturity equal? has knowledge no more pleasures than ignorance? There is more of such argument than we have quoted, but we must make short work of it. We point out its leading fallacy, and leave the rest to fall by its own weight. Of course, in the judgments of a mind so constituted, we must expect to find inconsistencies. And here is one meets us at

"The Egyptian has no home; at least, in the English sense of that sacred word: his sons are only half brothers, and generally at enmity with each other; his daughters are transplanted, while yet children, into some other hareem; and his wives, when their beauty is gone by, are frequently divorced without a cause, to make room for some younger rival. The result is, that the Egyptian is a sensualist and a slave, and only fit to be a subject in what prophecy long since foretold his country should become—'the basest of kingdoms."

If all other things be so equal, what is there in the Egyptian being "a sensualistand a slave" to condemn? By use of similar false assumptions, you may prove that the Briton is in some sense a sensualist and a slave also, and that there As a specimen of a fine old English transla-tion, the volume before us is certainly interest-learned to read the privileges of civilization and

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freedom in a better light, and make much more account of them in consequence. To rivet the inconsistency, asit were, with the former passage, the author follows up the extract just made with the sentence: "The women have all the insipidity of children, without their innocence or sparkling freshness." Just so! What, then, becomes of the comfortable assurance that "if their human lot dooms them to their cares, they are as transient as those of childhood" ?-Yes! "childhood without innocence or sparkling fresh-Having made this latter assertion, our author next proceeds to expatiate on "the mere animal" which the Egyptians' "miserable creed would make of "woman; and then, a page or two onwards, quotes a saying of Mohammed and a passage from the Koran, which prove that, when properly understood, that same creed is not the miserable one predicated, but does really inculcate the immortality of the soul, both male and female; and such is the opinion of many Moslem commentators. It is not, then, for his reasonings, but his facts, that we must consult

Mr. Warburton's book :-"An Egyptian infant is the most ill-favoured object in human creation; a name is applied to him with as little ceremony as a nickname is with us; and, indeed, there are not perhaps twenty different names distributed among the 200,000 Moslem inhabitants of Cairo. They are almost all taken from the Prophet or his immediate relations and followers. our crew of ten men, we had five Mahmouds, or Mohammeds, two Ibraheems, three Abdallahs, and a Jad. As the Egyptian grows into childhood, he appears still more deformed and extremely corpulent; but in manhood he becomes well-proportioned, stalwart, and sinewy; those at least who are employed upon the river. The city Egyptian never takes any active exercise, and passes nearly all his time squatted on his divan or counter. Many of the shopkeepers at Cairo are merely amateur tradesmen, being possessed of private property, and carrying on business as good young ladies do in other bazaars, for amusement only. Along the river, and among the villages, the poor man is occupied with agriculture, boatbuilding, or the most laborious occupation of pump-ing-up water to irrigate the fields. His children of both sexes run about naked, or nearly so, and if the little girls have a rag upon them, they coquettishly cover their faces with it. The peasant's utmost exertions scarcely suffice to earn two-pence a day; and even this pittance is often wrung from him for the Pasha, when some neighbour has failed in the taxes, for which the community is answerable. Yet happy does he consider himself, if allowed even thus to struggle on through life. The bright sun shines, and the cool river flows for him, however deep his pover-ty: and the faint shadow of freedom that he enjoys gives energy to his labours, however severe. But the Pasha must have workmen for his factories, and labourers for his crops. Conscription, for these purposes, then seizes those whom that for war has spared; and the fellah is torn from his home, to work under the lash of a taskmaster, for the nominal wages of two-pence halfpenny a day. This is sometimes two years in arrear, and even then paid half in kind, at the Pasha's valuation of whatever he has least occasion for. Such is the Egyptian peasant's lot, aggravated by privations that are incredible. If sick, he has no medicine or medical advice, and he dies; if starving, he must steal from his own crop, which the Pasha has set his seal upon, and he suffers the bastinado. If a conscript for war, he is kept in camp until no longer fit for service: then thrown upon the world to beg and die. This is a dreary pic-ture, it is likewise true; and yet, even under all these miseries, even here the human heart vindicates its strong right to be glad,' and, amongst the most wretched hovels, and the most abject misery of appearance, I thought I could observe about the same proportion of merriment and amusement, sor-row and indifference, as in joyous Italy, or even in our own favoured islands. Man's nature, however degraded, still shows itself superior to circumstance; and the free spirit seems to scorn the laws of its flesh

Our author is, it seems, a kind of imper-

fect Optimist: everything with him is somehow right, though somehow also it is wrong;—and so, between the two points, he manages to keep a sort of pendulating equilibrium, which defies decision. There is a want of character in him which is really quite amiable. From the specimens of Egyptian song with which he treats us, take the following,—premising that "the refrain 'Durwadeega' is Nubian for hen-house," and that "this hen-house is always the property of the wife, which her husband is obliged to make over to her in case of a divorce":—

Nubian Song.

A change came over my husband's mind;
He loved me once, and was true and kind,
Till his heart went astray, and he wished me away,
But he had no money my dower to pay.
Sing Durwadeega, Durwadee,
Oh dear to me is Durwadee,

For, blessed be Allah! he's old and poor, And my cocks and hens were his only store, So he kept me still, for well he knew, If I went, that the cocks and hens went too. Sing Durwadeega. Durwadee, Oh dear to me is Durwadee.

But I say him pining day by day,
As he wished his poor wife far away;
So I went my rival home to call,
And gave her the hen-house, and him and all.
Sing Durwadeega, Durwadee,
Oh dear to me is Durwadee.

Then he tore his turban off his brow, And swore I never should leave him now, Till the death-men combed his burial locks. Then blessed for ever be hens and cocks. Sing Durwadeega, Durwadee, Oh dear to me is Durwadeega.

Some account of crocodile-shooting may not e amiss :-

"The first time a man fires at a crocodile is an epoch in his life. We had only now arrived in the waters where they abound, for it is a curious fact that none are ever seen below Mineyeh, though Herodotus speaks of them as fighting with the dolphins, at the mouths of the Nile. A prize had been offered for the first man who detected a crocodile, and the crew had now been for two days on the alert in search of them. Buoyed up with the expectation of such game, we had latterly reserved our fire for them exclusively, and the wild duck and turtle; nay, even the vulture and the eagle had swept past, or soared above us in security. At length, the cry of 'Timseach, timseach!' was heard from half a dozen claimants of the proffered prize, and half a dozen black fingers were eagerly pointed to a spit of sand, on which were strewn apparently some logs of trees. It was a Covey of Crocodiles! Hastily and silently the boat was run in shore. R. was ill, so I had the enterprise to myself, and clambered up the steep bank with a quicker pulse than when I first levelled a rifle at a Highland deer. My intended victims might have prided themselves on their superior nonchalance; and, indeed, as I approached them, there seemed to be a sneer on their ghastly mouths and winking eyes. Slowly they rose, one after the other, and waddled to the water, all but one, the most gallant or most gorged of the party. He lay still until I was within a hundred vards of him; then slowly rising on his fin-like legs, he lumbered towards the river, looking askance at me with an expression of countenance that seemed to say, 'He can do me no harm; however, I may as well have a swim,' I took aim at the throat of this supercilious brute, and, as soon as my hand steadied, the very pulsation of my finger pulled the trigger. went the gun; whizz! flew the bullet; and my excited ear could catch the thud with which it plunged into the scaly leather of his neck. waddle became a plunge, the waves closed over him, and the sun shone on the calm water, as I reached the brink of the shore, that was still indented by the waving of his gigantic tail. But there is blood upon the water, and he rises for a moment to the surface. A hundred piastres for the timseach,' I exclaimed, and half a dozen Arabs plunged into the stream. There! he rises again, and the Blacks dash at him as if he hadn't a tooth in his head. Now he is gone, the waters close over him, and I never saw him since. From that time we saw hundreds of crocodiles of all sizes, and fired shots enough at them for a Spanish revolution; but we never could get possession of any, even if we hit them, which to this day remains

uncertain. I believe each traveller, who is honest enough, will make the same confession."

Let us now plunge at once into Abyssinia, for a chance of the new and the wonderful:—

"There appears to be a wild caprice amongst the institutions, if such they may be called, of all these tropical nations. In a neighbouring state to that of Abvasinia, the king, when appointed to the regal dignity, retires into an island, and is never again visible to the eyes of men but once-when his ministers come to strangle him; for it may not be that the proud monarch of Behr should die a natural death. No men, with this fatal exception, are ever allowed even to set foot upon the island, which is guarded by a band of Amazons In another border country, called Habeesh, the monarch is dignified with the title of Tiger. He was formerly Malek of Shendy, when it was invaded by Ismael Pasha, and was even then designated by this fierce cognomen. Ismael, Mehemet Ali's second son. advanced through Nubia, claiming tribute and sub-mission from all the tribes. Nemmir (which signifies Tiger), the King of Shendy, received him hospitably, as Mahmoud, our dragoman, informed us, and, wher he was seated in his tent, waited on him to learn his pleasure. 'My pleasure is,' replied the invader, 'that you forthwith furnish me with slaves, cattle, and money, to the value of 100,000 dollars. Pooh! said Nemmir, you jest; all my country could not produce what you require in one hundred moons.'- 'Ha! Wallah!' was the young Pasha's reply, and he struck the Tiger across the face with his pipe. If he had done so to his namesake of the jungle, the insult could not have roused fiercer feelings of revenge, but the human animal did not show his wrath at once. 'It is well,' he replied; 'let the Pasha rest, to-morrow he shall have nothing more to ask.' The Egyptian, and the few Mameluke officers of his staff, were tranquilly smoking towards evening, entertained by some dancing-girls, whom the Tiger had sent to amuse them ; when they observed that a huge pile of dried stalks of Indian corn was rising rapidly round the tent. 'What means this?' inquired Ismael, angrily; 'am not I Pasha?'—'It is but forage for your highness's horses,' replied the Nubian, 'for, were your troops once arrived, the people would fear to approach the camp.' Suddenly, space is filled with smoke, the tent-curtains shrivel up in flames, and the Pasha and his comrades find themselves encircled in what they well know is their funeral pyre. Vainly the invader implores mercy, and assures the Tiger of his warm regard for him and all his family; vainly he endeavours to break through the fiery fence that girds him round; a thousand spears bore him back into the flames, and the Tiger's triumphant yell and bitter mockery mingle with his dying screams. The Egyptians mingle with his dying screams. perished to a man. Nemmir escaped up the country, crowned with savage glory, and married the daughter of a king, who soon left him his successor, and the Tiger still defies the old Pasha's power. however, took a terrible revenge upon his people: he burnt all the inhabitants of the village nearest to the scene of his son's slaughter, and cut off the right hands of five hundred men besides. So much for African warfare."

A description of a Nubian beauty is not with-

out merit and interest :-"The Nubian woman is more free than her Egyptian neighbour, and also far more virtuous; she seldom wears a veil, and, as she bends over the river to fill her water-jar, or walks away, supporting it with one hand, no statuary could imagine a more graceful picture than she presents. Her light and elegant figure has that serpent sinuousness when she moves, that constitutes the very poetry of motion, and resembles gliding rather than walking. Her face is finely oval, and her dark eyes have a gentle and inquiring though somewhat sad expression, that seems to bespeak great intelligence. Her complexion is very dark, but it is of that bronze colour so familiar to our eyes in statues, that it forms no detraction from the general beauty of this graceful and winning savage. There was a girl at Philæ, who, I think, approached more nearly the ideal of perfect lovelihave passed for the very spirit of that wild and beau-tiful region. Whether she lay couched under the shade of the palms, weaving the cotton, whose pale vellow flowers were strong around her called her yellow flowers were strewn around her, or led her

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sheep to pasture, or smiled upon the children at their play, or gazed upon the strangers with her large, lustrous, gentle eyes, in every phase of her simple life, she was what Eve might have been. The voices life, she was wrat Live might have been. The voices of these women are very sweet, and low, and plainitive; and though their language conveyed to my ear as little meaning as the song of birds, yet there was something in the tones that seemed familiar. Often, when our boat lay moored under the shadow of the palm, have I lain and listened to the murmur of their roices, with a pleasure such as the richest notes of the Italian music never thrilled me with. There is nothing so associate as sound: there are tones, which our heart, in its youth, has heard, that never leave it; that lie hushed from the wild tumult of the world we live in, until some sister-sound bids it start to life, and with it recalls not only the time, but the feelings and with it recalls not only the time, but the feelings we enjoyed or suffered when first we heard its music. Under such a spell, the wild and savage scenery of Africa passed from my eyes; far distant climes and times replaced it on Memory's mirage, and came thronging by as rapidly as those hours had fleeted, when I was roused from my reverie by Mahmoud's informing me, with an execration, that these ' maladette donne' wanted three piastres a piece for their maladetti pollastri.' Numerous as are the attractions of these dark charmers, there is one very powerful protection to the traveller against their unconscious fascinations; that soft, smooth, shining skin owes all its brilliance to—castor oil. Unfortunately for romance, there are large plantations of this pretty plant in every district in Nubia; and, as oil is absolutely necessary to save the naked skin from the scorching effects of and children, polish themselves with it two or three times a day! Now, does it not seem hard, that, in a times a day:

"The country where the trees drop aromatic gums and fingrant balsams, and every air is laden with delicate perfume, that the particular article of general use in the savage toilette should be such as only an apothecary's apprentice could make love in the face of ?"

We must leave Thebes and Luxor and the pyramids unexplored; nothing that is new or curious being told of either: but we may glean a few passages, next week, from the Syrian Jour-

The Genealogies, Tribes, and Customs of Hy-Fiachrach, commonly called O'Dowda's Coun-Translated from the Original Irish, by John O'Donovan, Esq. Dublin; published by the Irish Archæological Society.

WE have, from the first, taken an interest in the Irish Archæological Society, and endeavoured to direct public attention to the national objects it was instituted to promote. The character of a people is, to a great extent, moulded and formed by the circumstances of its history; and inva-sions have never wholly effaced the influence of the institutions which they have subverted. In Ireland, the early invaders evinced a marked tendency to adopt the institutions of the conquered people, because they gave more power to local chieftains than the feudal system itself, and though this tendency was denounced by several acts of parliament, yet its influence is even now conspicuous in various parts, where land-lords regard themselves as heads of clans, and tenants almost unconsciously exhibit feelings of something like hereditary vassalage. The vo-lume now before us is a striking evidence of the importance attributed to genealogies by the Celtic race; it contains the genealogies of the tribes and families which anciently possessed O'Dowda's country, a district including a large part of the present counties of Mayo and Sligo, combined with incidental allusions to their manners and customs, and a sprinkling of the strange legends which have rendered Celtic credulity proverbial. The old controversy respecting the connexion between the ancient Church of Ireland and the Romish see, has been recently revived by the Rev. Dr. Rock on one side, and the Rev. Mr. Todd on the other. We have no wish to act the part of mediators in ecclesiastical dis-

the extremes; — that the Irish hierarchy ac-knowledged the primacy of the Romish Church, as James I. was willing to do, but did not, until the time of Malachi, a little before the Anglo-Norman invasion, compromise its independence by recognizing the supremacy of the throne of St. Peter. One reason for this belief is, that the legends of the Irish saints have a character peculiar to themselves, and quite unlike anything to be found in the magiology of the rest of Europe.

We have a singular account of the right of succession being transferred from the branch of a family on which St. Gerald had pronounced an imprecation, to another and scarcely legitimate line: the privileges granted as a compensation to the ejected branch are curious :-

"St. Gerald cursed Caomhan and his seed, and prayed that there should not be a king of his race for ever. When Aodh heard this, he became sorrowful for the curse pronounced against his grandfather by the angry saint, in consequence of the misconduct of the malicious woman, who had issue; so that he went to where St. Gerald was, to appease him; and though he did appease him, it was no avail to Aodh, for Gerald did not consent to make peace with any one who was descended from the woman who had insulted him, but he consented that the chieftainship of the O'Caomhains should be transferred to the race of Diarmaid, son of Cathal, son of Caomhan, that is, to the son of the handmaid of the denounced woman, but that none of his race should ever expect to be kings of all the Hy-Fiachrach. And the compensations they obtained for this transfer of the lordship were the following, viz. a tuath of the territory which their reigning relative possessed, from the river Rodhba, to the river Codhnach, and the privilege of first sitting in the drinking house, and of arraying the battle; that O'Dubhda is to stand up before him whenever he meets him, or wherever he may be; that that whoever takes his first arms in his territory, he should take them from the descendants of Diarmaid, son of Cathal, son of Caomhan; also that they should get the Luach leasa" of every king's daughter and the steed and battle-dress of every king among them for ever, after his being inaugurated; and that the like should be given by them to the Ollamb, that is, to Mac Firbis.

The notices of the feuds between the Irish septs, and the ferocity they displayed in their civil wars, are sad parallels to the faction fights of modern times. The English settlers soon learned to imitate this barbarism:—

"At one time when the Barretts had supremacy over Tir Amhalgaidh (as we have said), they sent their steward, who was called Sgornach bhuid bhearrtheir steward, who was came a sgormach binnic observable," to exact rents from the Lynotts. The Lynotts killed this steward, and cast his body into a well called Tobar nar Sgornaighe, near Garzanard, to the west of the castle of Carns in Tir Amhalgaidh. When the Barretts had received intelligence of this, they assembled their armed forces and attacked the Lynotts, and subdued them. And the Barretts gave the Lynous, and subduct them. And the Barrettsgave the Lynotts their choice of two modes of punishment. * The Barretts then thrust needles into the eyes of the Lynotts, and accordingly as each man of them was blinded, they compelled him to cross over the stepping-stones of Clochan na n-dall, near Carns, to see if more or less of sight remained with them, and if any of them crossed the Clochan without stumbling he was taken back and re-blinded! Some time after this the Lynotts meditated how they could revenge their animosities on the Barretts, and the contrivance which occurred to their minds one derived from their anoccurred to their minds—one derived from their an-cestors,—was to procure a dalta [i.e. an adopted son] from some powerful man of the Clann William Burke, who, previously to this period, had inhabited the south of the mountain [Nevin]; and to this end Lynott fed a spirited horse which the Lynotts took with them to receive the adopted son, in order that the Burke who should break that steed might be

putation, but we think that truth lies between | their adopted son. And thus they obtained Teaboid Maol Burke as an adopted son, who was afterwards killed by the Barretts. So that it was in eric for him that the Barretts gave up to the Burkes eighteen quarters of land; and the share which Lynott, the adopted father of Teaboid, asked of this eric was the distribution of the mulct, and the distribution he made of it was, that it should be divided throughout all Tir Amhalgaidh, in order that the Burkes might be stationed in every part of it as plagues to the Barretts, and to draw the country from them. And thus the Burkes came over the Barretts in Tir Amhalgaidh, and took nearly the whole of their lands from them; but at length the Saxon heretics of Oliver Cromwell took it from them all, in the year of our Lord 1652; so that now there is neither Barrett nor Burke, not to mention the Clann Fiachrach, in possession of any lands

The volume has been edited with care, and the notes are calculated to throw light on the ancient history and geography of Ireland.

The History of Etruria. Part II. From the Foundation of Rome to the General Peace, anno Tarquipiensis 839 (B. c. 348.) By Mrs. Hamilton Gray. Hatchard.

Mrs. Hamilton Gray, is one of the most successful of Niebuhr's disciples; her former volume, though constructed on a very narrow basis of ascertained facts, manifested extraordinary skill in weaving the few certainties together in a web of plausible conjecture; and the texture of the piece was so artistically contrived, that it required a very close examination to discover the frailty of the materials. In the volume be-fore us, which is chiefly devoted to developing the influence of the Tuscan element in early Roman civilization, she has a more abundant, though still a limited, array of facts; and her sagacity has been exercised in determining the real nature and import of those facts which either escaped the notice of those by whom they were

recorded, or have been greatly misrepresented.

The most remarkable event in the history of the connexion between the Etrurians and the Romans may be regarded as the accession of Tarquinius Priscus to the throne of the Roman state. Niebuhr deemed this so extraordinary, that he denied the Tuscan origin of Tarquin, and asserted him to be one of the Priscan Latins. Mrs. Gray insists that Livy's account is more consistent with probability and recorded facts, and she gives a view of the circumstances, which is novel and ingenious, if not perfectly convincing. This theory may be thus briefly stated: Demaratus, a leader of the Corinthian oligarchy, fled to Tarquinia, with which Corinth had an alliance of isopolity, and married a Tuscan lady. He transferred to the heads of the liberal party in Etruria the hatred which he felt to the democracy that had expelled him from Corinth, and trained up his son in the same course of policy. In Etruria nobility was to some extent heritable from the mother, and Tarquin, the son of Demaratus, was a partisan of the oligarchy, as representative of maternal privileges and paternal prejudices. He had the title of Lucumo, or prince, in right of his mother, but appears to have been excluded from all share in the government, as the son of an alien father. Mrs. Gray believes that he was a conscientious supporter of the very privileges which closed the paths of honourable ambition against him, but adopts the popular theory that this exclusion was painful to his wife, the Etrurian princess Tanchufil, or as she was called by the Romans, Tanaquil:—

" It is likely that he could not gain admission into the Senate, and therefore was shut out for himself and his descendants, from all hopes of the Tarquinian throne: and feeling himself equal in all other points, in rank, in wealth, and in talents, to the highest of those nobles, amongst whom he was educated, his pride could not brook the exclusion.

[&]quot;* Luach leasa literally means reward, or price of welfare, and Luach impidite reward, or price of intercession."

"* A coarse phrase, intunating that the steward was a glutton and a debauchee."

Tanchufil's feelings were similar to those of the Roman matron in after ages, when she saw her sister's husband Consul, and her own plebeian spouse incligible. Tarquin's feelings, on the other hand, were those of the 'Gentes minores,' when they turned against the leading houses from jealousy of their precedency, and of their chief offices which were confined to their class. To judge from his title and following, he must have been admitted into the Patriciate at Tarquinia, and yet may have been excluded from the Senate. We think it very likely that so decided, though large and high-minded, an aristocrat, with great military talent, a courage not to be daunted, and an energy not to be repressed, may have felt himself better qualified than any one else, to be the general of the Tarquinian armies against Celes Vibenna and the democratic party, who were now threatening their opponents with a great revolution."

Mrs. Gray believes that the Tarquinian rulers counselled the migration of Tarquinius Priscus to Rome, believing it of importance to have a partisan of aristocratic ascendancy in the rising city at a time when the Etrurian democracy, headed by Cale Fipi (Cœles Vibenna), menaced open war against the privileges of the olig-

"Is it not evident that his departure from his native city, and his arrival at Rome, was one of honour and peace? There was no hurried flight, no disorder, no confusion, there were no martial preparations. He came in his chariot, in a sort of peaceful triumph, with his noble lady by his side, and attended by crowds of clients and servants; and were we not unwilling to throw a shade of ridicule upon the acts of so truly great a person, we should almost be inclined to find marks of collusion, and of a way made ready for him, in the story of the eagle. It seems not improbable that Lucius was beforehand destined by Tarquinian Luciumoes and priests, to wield the Roman sceptre. And it is not impossible that the birl of victory and of royalty had been previously trained to accomplish advoitly the augury!"

The election of Tarquin to the Roman throne was a violation of the law that the kings should be alternately Latins and Sabines; its causes are hid in obscurity, but the result was to place Rome in the federation of the aristocratic Etrurian cities. There is great plausibility in the conjecture that the space assigned to the reign of the elder Tarquin was really occupied by a dynasty of several kings, and that through their reigns Rome maintained the cause of oligarchical government against the democratic party, which was headed by Cœles Vibenna and his

general, Mastarna:-

" Having traversed Etruria, Celes Vibenna and his army appeared before Rome, where, as we have seen, the aristocratic principle had established itself, as in a sure fastness, under the auspices of the Tarquinian Resident, now King, by the name of Lucius. Here, although with varied fortune, the liberal cause had ultimately better success than elsewhere. The Etruscan army, with their Latin and Sabine allies, had indeed sustained defeat from the able and powerful Tarquinian prince; but, notwithstanding temporary discomfiture, Celes Vibenna and his host obtained, either by force of arms or by treaty, a settlement in Rome, on the Cœlian Mount, and a recognized status and position in the commonwealth.

When masters of the Cœlian, Cale Fippi, Mastarna, and their followers, were at first mere Plebeians, as concerned the Roman government, having Roman lands and rights, but not belonging to the Populus. The Curiæ, however, presently found that it con-cerned their own safety to elect them members, and to pronounce them eligible for the Senate, and possessors of all the rights and privileges which had formerly been conquered by the Sabines from the original Albans, and which never were yielded but to conquest alone. Mastarna the fiery-headed, seems to have exacted the same terms from Lucius which Tatius did from Romulus,—he governed with him whilst living, and succeeded him when dead."

The accession of Mastarna, or, as he is called in Roman history, Servius Tullius, was the result of the preponderance acquired by the demo-

cratic party. The struggle was one of great fierceness, and was probably the period when the ancient cities of Etruria fell from their pride of place:—

"In the great contest which now took place between the aristocratic and democratic principles, or rather between the exclusive and the equitable, (for aristocratic and democratic, in our sense, scarcely existed in the ancient world)—in this contest, Vetulonia fell to rise no more. Her territories seem to have been portioned out amongst the League, some other great city, probably Rome, took her place; and Vetulonia, the rich and illustrious, during the first hundred and fifty years of Roman history, is never mentioned again in the annals of Etruria."

Mastarna, or Servius Tullius, substituted for the oligarchy of birth an aristocracy based on the possession of taxable property. Thucydides, with his usual acuteness, points out the real source of the preponderance which Servius gave to the democracy, when he mentions that he was the first who formed the Roman infantry into a regular force, and rendered it of more value than the cavalry. In like manner, the tyranny of feudalism was broken down when the Swiss wars showed that infantry could defy and conquer the proud chivalry of Burgundy. An aristocratic conspiracy terminated the life of Servius, and restored the throne to the Tarquinian dynasty. Tarquin the Proud appears to have aimed at establishing an absolute monarchy: he thus alienated the affections of the nobles, to whom he owed his elevation, and was expelled by the joint efforts of the plebeians and the patricians; we know not how their union was brought about, and the popular story is just as probable as any other.

It is not easy to explain how Tarquin, the hereditary leader of the aristocratic party, obtained the aid of Lars Porsenna, who was the head of the democratic states of Etruria. Mrs. Gray's explanation of the anomaly is at least plausible:—

Should it be asked, why did Porsenna assist the Tarquinian party in Rome, if he belonged to a dif-ferent political side, and if he was so decidedly opposed to their interest in the League? it may be replied, that within the League, he was, indeed, opposed to them, and sought their subjugation. But the object of Brutus and the republican faction was altogether to emancipate Rome from Etruscan influence. And although Porsenna was ready to maintain the cause of Clusium against the preponderance of Tarquinia, yet he was not prepared to suffer the Rasenan influence to be quite destroyed, in the great border city on the banks of the Tiber; and Rome to become not only free from kingly sway, but from Etruscan domination. Though Lars Porsenna might be a fee to the Tarquinians, he was a Rasenan, one of 'the mighty Turrheni, worthy to have lived in the days of the demi-gods,' and as such he was ever ready to turn his powerful arm against every foreign enemy of his country. When he saw the brave old Tarquin supplicating hisaid, that prince, so venerable for age, so renowned for his magnificent works, and so dreaded for his warlike deeds, his heart relented, and he resolved to give him succour. Porsenna considered that Tarquin had been hardly and unjustly used, and he did not understand a rebel Latin Plebeian, lording it over all the Patricians, and electing himself to the supreme authority. Moreover, if Tarquin was to suffer for the crimes of his son, Junius Brutus, whose life and property he had spared, ought, long ago, to have suffered for the treason of his father. Porsenna, thought that he was the very last man, who should have raised his hand against the old king, and as he could at first only know Tarquin's version of the tale, he was roused to the strongest indignation, and was spurred on to the most de'ermined venge nee. At the General Diet of Voltumna, he caused himself to be elected captain of the League, (Embratur,) with all the accustomed insignia of royal authority, and he assumed the supreme command."

It is, however, certain, that in the course of the war, Porsenna's zeal for the Tarquins was considerably cooled, and he finally granted peace

to the Romans, without insisting on the restoration of the exiled family. After the death of Porsenna, Rome recovered its independence, and never again formed part of an Etrurian federation.

Whatever opinion may be ultimately formed of Mrs. Gray's views, her theory has the merit of being very closely in accordance with all the ancient records; we differ from her on several points of minor importance, but the discussion of them would have little interest for general readers, and their decision, one way or the other, would not materially affect the great question of Etrurian influence in the early ages of Rome.

THE ANNUALS FOR 1845.

The Book of Beauty. The Keepsake.—The critic, as we have often declared, can hardly hold his court over the illustrations in these gay volumes. As one of the rhymesters—'A Septagenarian' whom the spell of the Editress has galvanized into a song—pleads,

Not two stars on Ocean's glass
Shine alike of crystal made;
Not two daises on the grass
Crimson to the selfsame shade.
Trim the lamps of yonder sky,
Paint the field-flowers, thou who carest;
But to value lip and eye—
Out on rules!—the last are fairest!

Following, therefore, in the wake of this inconstant old gentleman, we will not attempt to measure the beauties for 1845 against those of preceding years: but be content to state that Mr. Swinton's portrait of Lady Douro, on the exhibition of which at the Royal Academy such good hopes for its artist were based, forms the frontispiece to the volume—and venture a word of disappointment at the ineffectiveness of Mr. Thorburn's miniatures (which we have so often admired) when transferred to copper. The letter-press of this showy book "holds the even tenor of its way" in right of Mr. Landor's conversation betwitx Æsop and Rhodope, and of a Decameron of lively tales—among the tellers of which it were ungallant not to specify Lady Blessington herself, Mrs. Hall, and Mrs. Romer. There are also a few pages on Epitaphs (the last in the book) by Mr. Monckton Milnes, worth keeping:—

"It is now many years ago since I was detained a the small town of Otranto in Calabria. The innkeeper told me 'he knew its castle was very famous in English history, and was very sorry it had totally disappeared." There was, however, no wan of ruins about the town; tombs and walls of the old Roman time, when Horace did not get quite so far south, content with Brindisi; churches and chapels of that later and stranger period, when the Northman added his fame and his art to Italian history, when above the very plain of Cannæ was raised the Gothic tomb of Boemond, whose epitaph concludes with—

Non hominum possum dicere, nolo Deum.

In one of those deserted churches my attention was drawn to a slab of marble embedded in acanthus, and, with a wayward curiosity, I laboured till I had raised it once more to light: there was an inscription

on it, which I deciphered with difficulty,In æternam memoriam.....

It broke off there, and the edges of the fragment ironically expressed the eternity of human memories. We all know this; we all know with how little interest we regard the monuments that crowd our churches, and with how little care we clear away the mould from the 'lasting tribute of affection,' or disturb the spider-web round the head of the weeping cherub: how very seldom a tombstone is mended! how very seldom an effaced inscription restored! Let the dead die: it is well it should be so, when they who have known and loved the dead are gone too; when the builders of the tomb are themselves laid idle in another grave, let Time have his way here as elsewhere; and we must be content, if he good-humouredly allows our little struggles to hold him back a moment on his conquering way. Let us raise such monuments as satisfy ourselves and our

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immediate descendants. My own feeling is strongly in favour of Latin inscriptions. There is something incisive and lapidary in the Latin language, in all its phases; the inscriptions on the Roman monuments passes; the inscriptions on the Roman monuments and edifices of yesterday are as noble and as becom-ing as even those on a Scipio's tomb. Then, too, there appears to me to be a fit reserve in confining the record of one's affection within a certain sphere of observation, and to withdraw it, in some degree, of observation, of the ignorant and unfeeling. In a small church on the banks of the Arno, at Pisa, there is a broad marble slab, inscribed

Mariæ Mancini pulvis et ossa.

What a proud humility in this epitaph! Now it takes for granted that you know who the Mancini was, and feel what there was which now is dust and

"I have seen few English epitaphs that satisfied me; the beginning of Lord Bolingbroke's is fine:—

Here lies
Henry St. John, in the reign of Queen Anne
Sec. of War, Sec. of State, and Viscount Bolingbroke,
In the days of King George the First and King George the
Second,
Something more and better.

The rest is weak, and not more true.-It may be from the language being one's own, but it always seems to me so difficult, to be at once earnest and epigrammatic, that I never would undertake to write an English epitaph; yet I saw one the other day, in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, which might bring tears into any eye. There was the name and the date, and under it___

Deare childe.

No more.-There is an inscription in the churchyard of Lanercost Abbey that should not be for-

Sir Rowland Vaux, that sometime was Lord of Triermain, Is dead, his body chad in lead, and lies under this stane; Even as we, even so was he, on earth a levan man, Even as he, so mann we be, for all the craft we can.

The melody of that name rung in the ear of the young Coleridge, and the hero of 'Christabel' was thus designated.—The humorous epitaph is disagreeable to most minds, for one does not clearly understand who can have written it—at least, not the mourner. Yet a play upon words is not always ridi-colous; there is surely a pathos in Cotton Mather's sepulchral record of his dear friend and colleague, well known in the controversial annals of New England divinity :-

Ralphius Partridge, avolavit die. . . .

We may feel, too, a certain grim diversion in the involuntary absurdity that breaks out sometimes among the tombs; for example, the Pesaro,

Ex nobilissimå inter Venetos In nobiliorem Angelorum familiam translatus,

could hardly have said so good a thing about himself in his lifetime. In the pompous style, the 'Circumspice' of Sir Christopher Wren, and the 'Sta, Sol, ne moveare, of Copernicus, are the best I know. In the other extreme, Wordsworth's sonnet has immortalised the 'Miserrimus' in Litchfield Cathedral. There is neither tomb nor epitaph over the Duke of Marlborough, in Westminster Abbey. Was the projected monument so magnificent that it has never been erected? It seems singular that this should not have been the care of the proud Sarah's widow-

A choral Dirge, by Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, is elegant and acceptable, but somewhat melan-choly, perhaps, for a record which, by its charter, has nothing to do with age and decay. Of the two Annuals, however, The Keepsake is, undeniably, the richer in prose and verse. The name of M. Eugène Sue will attract many to read his brief notice of M. Savinien Lapointe, one of the artificer poets of France. The signature of J. R., of Christchurch, is appended to a lyric we cannot but quote :-

The Old Seaman.

You ask me why mine eyes are bent So darkly on the sea, While others watch the azure hills That lengthen on the lee?

The azure hills—they soothe the sight
That fails along the foam;
And those may hall their nearing height,
Who there have hope, or home.

But I a loveless path have trod-A beaconless career;
My hope hath long been all with God,
And all my home is—here.

The deep by day, the heaven by night, Roll onward, swift and dark: Nor leave my soul the dove's delight, Of olive-branch or ark.

For more than gale, or gulf, or sand, I've proved that there may be Worse treachery on the steadfast land Than variable sea.

A danger worse than bay or beach— A falsehood more unkind— The treachery of a governed speech, And an ungoverned mind.

The treachery of the deadly mart,
Where human souls are sold,
The treachery of the hollow heart,
That crumbles as we hold.

Those holy hills and quiet lakes—
Ah! wherefore should I find
This weary fever-fit, that shakes
Their image in my mind.

The memory of a streamlet's din
Through meadows daisy-drest—
Another might be glad therein,
But yet I cannot rest.

I cannot rest unless it be Beneath the churchyard yew; But God, I think, hath yet for me More earthly work to do.

And therefore, with a quiet will,
I breathe the Ocean air,
And bless the voice that calls me still,
To wander and to bear.

Let others seek their native sod,
Who there have hearts to cheer;
My soul hath long been given to God,
And all my home is—here.

Then comes a famous novellette, in the rainbow style, by M. le Vicomte d'Arlincourt,— shortly afterwards a dramatic scene, by Mr. Milnes -and a 'Fantasia' by the Author of 'Coningsby.' There is power and purpose, though some-what mystically displayed, in Miss Garrow's 'Mabel's Dove,' and we have an Italian legend by Mr. R. Westmacott, and a goblin story of the Rhineland (true to life as to its scenery), besides the usual quantum of grace and fiction, from established Jocelyn makes a fair frontispiece: the other illustrations—save 'the Gondola,' by M. Cottrau-must not be tried by the severe standards

In place of the Picturesque Annual, Mr. Heath issues a second volume of the Rev. R. Cattermole's 'Historical Sketches of the English Civil War, with illustrative engravings, from designs by Mr. George Cattermole. Considering the class of persons to whom such works appeal for support, it ought not perhaps to excite surprise that the literary portion is subordinate in interest to the illustrations; but we see no reason,except indeed that it was intrusted to the historian of the Cartoons,-why it should halt after at such an immeasurable distance. The vignette on the title-page, a scene of pillage in a fair on the title-page, a scene of pillage in a fair mansion—a larger view of the 'Destruction of the Property of Royalists,' well rendered by Wallis,—'Colonel Pride in the House of Commons,' and the 'Scots pursued after the Battle of Preston,' are all in the artist's best manner. In 'The Seizure of the King at Holdenby,' and 'Cromwell paying a night visit to the Royal Coffin,' he has flown at higher game, attempting historical in place of what may be called scenic art; and the result is only a partial success. The volume also contains engravings after Vandyke's portraits of Charles the First, and, as the reverend historian chooses to call him, "the most renowned of hypocrites," Oliver Cromwell.

The Forget-me-Not.

The first of these gay gift-books bids fair, also, to become the last. There is now little attempt at choice art made in the illustrations; painters' names figure there, which are not to be found in exhibition catalogues—and engravers work but will be certainly followed by a sentence of transporcarelessly, as compared with past days of high

finish and feverish competition. As to letter-press—the ladies have the best of it, beyond all challenge. Miss Pardoe with her Hungarian knowledge, and Miss Mitford, with her somewhat oldfashioned but sweet recommendation of Woman's unobtrusive virtues, and Mrs. Gray with one of her Irish sketches, and that wonderful woman Mrs. Gore-who, we verily believe, keeps a staff of fiction-manufacturers, so numerous and incessant are her appearances—and Mrs. Sigour-ney and Miss Gould with verse of an over-sea bloom, make a phalanx too strong for male competition: nay—as if it were on purpose, Mr. Shoberl, at the close of his book, brings up the heavy artillery of Mrs. Siddons in a piece of somewhat ponderous jocosity—characteristic of the sincere, but not very lively, Queen of Tragedy.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

An Investigation of the Principles of the Rules for Determining the Measures and the Areas of Circular Plane Surfaces, &c., by the author of a 'New Theory of Gravitation,' &c.—'Αρυστον μεν ύδωρ, says the poet; water is the real thing. There is not inling but water going; the spirit of the age is not even spirit and water; it is all water; the sun rises and sets in Aquarius all the year through; teetotalism for the healthy, hydropathy for the sick. Mathematicians have long thrown cold water upon attempts to square the circle; the author of the tract before us has the circle: the author of the tract before us has collected this water in a sphere, and solved the pro-blem, forgetting only to tell us the answer. It is full of geometrical form; it assumes the twelfth book of Euclid, and it starts with determining the contents of a sphere, by filling it with water. Those who know anything of the subject are aware that, to say a anything of the subject are aware that, to say a diameter of 113 gives a circumference of 355 is hardly in error by a foot in 2,000 miles: how large must the sphere be, and how accurately must the water be weighed, to make the result come closer to the truth. But this is not the best of the joke. The water, the actual heavy water, is to be put into an imaginary sphere: "Let the hollow sphere or vessel be conceived to be generated by the revolu-tion of a semicircle about its diameter, then will the weight of whatever quantity of water will exactly fill the sphere, be to the area of the sphere." &c. This is called "determining the capacity of the sphere." This sphere then is in the author's head all the time, and furnishes a case of hydrocephalus hitherto unheard We recommend him to let it stay where it is, and make his measurement with whiskey punch: if it ooze through the envelope, we shall have a pretty and novel repetition of the Florentine experiment. We should like to know whether imaginary spheres are or are not pervious to intoxicating fluids.

Chaplain's Report of the Preston House of Correc-tion, presented at the October Sessions, 1844.—We always receive this Report with welcome, and read it with interest, even when it does not contain any such record of fact or observation, as, by its distinctive character, deserves to be brought especially under the consideration of our readers. On this occasion we shall extract a few words on "relapse into crime"; and coming as they do from one so well entitled to be heard with respectful attention, they ought to be sounded trumpet-tongued in the lazy ear of the pub-lic: "The majority of these cases refers to the young: and I need scarcely again repeat observations, which I have too often had occasion to make in former Reports, as to the difficulty of reforming a child who has been born and reared amidst poverty, neglect, and ill example. The evil which has grown with his growth and strengthened with his strength cannot be remedied by the discipline proper to a jail; nor within the term of imprisonment usually assigned to the (perhaps trifling) crime in which he has been detected. The first offence of a young criminal is generally followed by a sentence intended to check and to warn. The check is provided by a month's seclu-sion, and by a corporal chastisement suited to the age of the child; the warning is given from the bench, and afterwards reiterated, almost daily, to the offend-er in his cell, that the commission of a second crime

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been some previous religious training, and where parents have been willing to assist in the reformation of their child, are found effectual—at least in preventing a relapse into crime; but they are otherwise when these conditions are wanting; and in such cases nothing can cure the deep-seated demoralization but a long course of mental and religious education. such cases the child should be separated from bad companions until they are entirely forgotten, or re-membered only with disgust; any injurious influ-ence should be kept away from him; the powers of his mind should be roused; his affections should be cultivated; religious knowledge and religious principle should be engrafted, not merely as something to be occasionally referred to, but as the ever present guide through every hour of his life. All this, it is manifest, cannot be accomplished in a prison. utmost that can be done there, during the short sentence to which the young culprit is subjected, is the impressing him with a dread of the penal consequences of crime. It may be said, that an education is here contemplated for the little outcast relon, attainable, at present, by few children belonging to a less degraded class. I can only reply, that such an education ought to be given, and when the country has a clearer perception of its duty and its interest, will be given to all children; and especially to those who, without it, are sure to grow up in brutality and crime, miserable and degraded in themselves, a disgrace and a peril to the community.

My Uncle, the Clockmaker. By Mary Howitt, When Mary Howitt's " foot is in her native orchards" -that is, when she talks about English village lifeshe may always be depended upon as a faithful and experienced chronicler. Her invention, however, is given to the romantic, and hence, her working out of a moral is rather apt to be done in that fine fairy-tale style which, for a while, the Marcet and Edgeworth school of writers for the young brought into disrepute. Now, however, that the "utility people" are becoming less exclusive, less resolute to have proof for every fact, and a geometrical scale for Imagination, in place of that "ladder where angels step"—Romance has again leave to peep in at the nursery and school-room door: without fear of a Mr. Burchell to cry " Fudge !" at fortunes raining from Heaven or the Eastern Indies. at lost kindred who appear precisely at the opportune time_at wicked people who turn "sharp round" at the middle period of their lives,

"Forsake their crimes, confess their folly, And after ten months' melancholy," secome good and honest men." These condi-"become good and honest men." tions granted, Mary Howitt's 'Clockmaker,' though less likely to be popular than 'Sam Slick,' may be pointed out as qualified for a wide circuit in England. We have indicated the nature of the story. To our old selves, the picture of Dainsby Old Hall, the decaying seat of a decayed family, is worth the price of the book; but younger readers will prefer the scene in the last pages; and none the less, because it has been foreseen from the very first appearance of John Fox, the humourist, with his whimsical ways and his long bag of money.

The Convict Ship, by C. A. Browning, M.D. The author is a surgeon in the royal navy, and contemplating the convicts on board the Earl Grey, a transport to which he was appointed, as "immortal and responsible men, subjects of the sovereign of England, and of the moral and universal government of God," he bestowed considerable pains in promoting their education, instruction, and reformation. The narrator records the particulars of his success, and some of the statements are interesting, though, as might have been expected, not untainted with fanaticism. Whether the good he claims to have done was permanent, we have no evidence; but he deserves credit for the system of instruction and discipline which he seems to have introduced.

Emily's Reward; or, the Holiday Trip to Paris, by Mrs. Hofland .- A child's book, designed to awaken a desire for knowledge, and containing such a bird's-eye view of Paris as may be supposed attainable by a trip to that capital, accompanied with historical and other reflections.

A Dissertation on the True Age of the World, by Professor Wallace.—The author attempts to determine the chronology of the period from the Creation to the Christian era. Discrepancies, it is well known,

exist between the present Hebrew text and the Septuagint version, as also between the Hebrew and Samaritan texts. "According to the chronology of the modern Jews, we now live," says Professor Wallace, "in the year of the world, 5604; according to that of the Church of England, founded on the authority of Archbishop Usher's interpretation of the Hebrew text, in A.M. 5848; according to that of the Church of Rome, founded on the authority of Eusebius and the later chronographers, in A.M. 7044; but, according to that of the most learned of all Christian churches, and particularly the recent writers, Jackson, Hale, Russell and Cuninghame, founded on the authority of the Septuagint, corrected according to the best and most ancient codices of that version, and tested by astronomical and jubilean cycles of time, in A.M. 7322." Into this almost hopeless discussion Professor Wallace enters with zeal and sagacity; but we cannot join in his speculations, however curious.

An Essay towards a New Translation of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, by B. H. Cooper, B.A .-This translation is professedly conducted on the basis of the authorized version; with a paraphrase and brief explanatory notes, which substitute for the occasion, a critical, philological and exegetical commentary, hereafter to appear. Mr. Cooper has his own theory on the general object of the Epistle; according to him, the Apostle's design was not the exhibition of the doctrine of Justification by Faith, but he availed himself of the doctrine for "an ulterior end, viz. the breaking down of the middle wall of partition' between the Jewish and Gentile Christians." We think it right to indicate the writer's position, though it is obvious that into the controversy itself it would be impossible for us to enter. On a matter of such importance, also, it is expedient to wait until the publication of the greater work promised.

Tractarianism, not of God; Sermons, by C. B. Tayler, M.A.—The title sufficiently explains the

argument and character of the book. A Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words, Obsolete Phrases, Proverbs, and Ancient Customs, from the Fourteenth Century, by J. O. Halliwell, Esq. Part I.—This promises to be a most useful work an excellent companion to our old historians, poets, and dramatists, whose writings abound in words and allusions of which it is mere waste of time to seek for explanations in dictionaries and other books of common reference; and Mr. Halliwell, though habitually too off-handed to be altogether satisfactory, is, we must acknowledge, as well qualified, by industry, ability, and previous study, to be the editor as any man living. We could indeed easily name a as any man living. We could indeed easily name a dozen persons, each of whom would be better qualified for particular departments, but not one who, including the whole range embraced by the title, would have the ability and energy to go through all the drudging duties of the office more satisfactorily. It is a work, however, that, in the first instance, must be imperfect. We hold, therefore, that every English scholar should have an interleaved copy, that he may contribute a something towards improving a second edition. In this way, with careful supervision on the part of the editor, we shall, in a few years, have a valuable work, which every passing generation makes more and more needful. "It is intended," says the prospectus, " within as moderate a compass as possible, to give a large collection of those obsolete and provincial words which are most likely to be generally useful, without extending the size and cost of the work by etymological or other similar researches; and while care is taken to establish, as far as possible, the correct meanings of the words, to avoid discussions on subjects that would be interesting only to the professed etymologist. Most of the principal archaisms will be illustrated by examples. Without examples, it is often difficult to convey the true meaning; and the references to books more readily accessible will enable the student to pursue the history of any particular word to a greater extent than our plan has here permitted. The provincialisms constitute, of course, a less important part of the work; but numerous archaisms are to be found among them, and hence their value in glossing ancient texts. Considerable pains have been taken to collect words peculiar to the provinces; and a circular, addressed principally to the country clergy, has been so well responded to, that

many hundred words will be found that have no appeared in any of the local glossaries hitherto pub-lished." The first number appears to have been carefully compiled; but we are not inclined to seek very curiously for faults in a work of such obvious difficulty, when, even if it be imperfect, it cannot fail to be useful.

The Dictionary of the Farm, by the Rev. W. L. Rham.—Contains many articles very ably written, and on the whole, will be found a useful work,

The Nature and Treatment of Deafness and Diseases of the Ear, &c., by W. Dufton.—One of those books which are written, not because the author has any. thing new to say upon the subject of which they professedly treat, but because he has some other object in view. The medical press teems with such works. and many of them display a very respectable amount of talent; but they are not books that gain the authors any credit as men of science. This, however, is avowedly not their object: it is a not disreputable way of getting the author's name before the public. What a splendid shop front is to a tradesman, such a book is to the author who writes it, -it seems to draw attention to him and to what he has to sell, We do not, however, direct these observations against Mr. Dufton's book in particular, which is a respectable epitome of the subject.

Homocopathy Unmasked, by Alexander Wood, M.D. To those who deem Homœopathy a subject worthy of examination, this work may be of some assistance. The homeopathist will, perhaps, complain that he has not been fairly represented by Dr. Wood, but in quoting the works of Hahnemann, the author has certainly gone to the fountain-head; and we think the author has proved his position, that homeopathy is something worse than nonsense. The system which assumes as the basis of all its theories an axiom which has neither analogy nor the observation of facts in its favour, is certainly not worthy investigation, though it were put forth by men whose motives could in no way be impugned; but when such a system, after asserting that things which will produce a disease will cure a disease, with all the appearance of science, asserts that to be a fact which every other fact in nature contradicts, namely, that a medicine acts more efficiently as its dose is diminished, that is as the cause diminishes the effect increases, we think there can be but one opinion of those who practise such a system, or those who allow it to be practised upon them. Dr. Wood has bestowed too much attention on the written science of homeopathy; and, as for its successful practice, it should be let alone, as it is not greater than that which every system of quackery can boast, and which every well-educated person, whether medical or not, ought to know is dependent on the fact, that a certain proportion of cases of disease, under any circumstances, will always get well under the influence of the unassisted powers of nature.

A Practical Treatise on Midwifery, by M. Chailly; translated by G. S. Bedford, M.D.—The original work has been recognized by the Ministry of Public Instruction of the University of France as a textbook in the schools of the Faculty of Medicine, and in the courses for the instruction of sage-femmes. As such, it was not unworthy a translation into the English language. Dr. Bedford, of New York, has done full justice to the original work; and we make no doubt his translation will find its way into the libraries of all those, to aid and assist in whose important avocations it has been especially written.

Lessons on Chemistry, by W. H. Balmain.—Chemistry is a science which makes such rapid strides, that its text-books need constant revision, or new substitutes need to be prepared. This little work, by Mr. Balmain, is an attempt to convey, in easy lessons, the rudiments of the science as it exists at the present moment. We have no hesitation in pronouncing it a useful volume for junior classes in our colleges, as well as for the elder pupils in schools. It is not an easy or popular introduction, but a series of lessons, which require further illustration by a teacher or lecturer. Each lesson is followed by a series of questions upon its contents, and there is a glossary of chemical terms and symbols. We are glad to see symbols introduced into this volume. From observation, we are fully convinced that the most elementary facts of the science are taught more easily by their aid.

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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

CHINA.

The Canton River, or River Tigris.

THE Tigris or Canton river, is certainly one of the most imposing and striking objects which the traveller meets with in this celebrated country. The sea, near its moutb, is studded all over with numerous islands, of which a good view is obtained in going over from Hong Kong to Macao; and in suiling from either of these places to Canton, we pass a succession of them, most of which are mountainous, having huge masses of rock and yellow gravelly clay protruding here and there all over the surface, and but thinly covered with vegetation of any kind.

Sometimes, however, in our progress we have views of beautiful bays with a few acres of level land near the shore, in the midst of which there are some pretty shouses or huts surrounded with a few trees and shrubs. In sailing through amongst these islands one is apt to think that in the retirement of such dwellings, far removed from the vicious world, and the "busy hum of men," the inhabitants must indeed be happy and innocent, having their few wants abundantly supplied by the rice which grows luxuri-antly around their dwellings, and by the never failing supply of excellent fish, which are easily caught in the sea. But these dreams of happiness and innocence are soon dispelled, these quiet villages abound with are soon dispelled,—these quiet villages abound with pirates, who frequently commit acts of the most cold-blooded cruelty, and render the passages between Hong Kong, Canton, and Macao, unpleasant and dangerous. Lorchas having a valuable cargo on board, are frequently attacked, and the crew and passengers murdered for the sake of the contents of the vessel, which is generally ransacked and afterwards burned or destroyed. A short time since, a most affecting case of this kind happened, in which an affecting case of this kind happened, in which an affecting case of this kind happened, in which an English medical gentleman was one of the victims. He had taken a passage for Macao from Hong Kong on his way to England, from which he had been absent from his wife and family for several years, and was barbarously murdered near some of the islands on the passage.

A few hours' sail with a fair wind and tide, brought me insight of the celebrated Bocca Tigris, the entrance to the Canton river. The forts which were destroyed during the war, are now rebuilt on a more extensive scale, and if manned with English soldiers, no fleet in the world would pass them without being blown to pieces. I fancy, however, that the Chincse, although they have had a lesson in the art of war by which they will be more difficult to conquer again, would still, with all their forts, afford but a feeble resistance against the military and naval tactics of the English or other civilized nations of the west.

Inside of the Bogue, the river widens very much, and presents the appearance of an inland sea; the view is now beautiful and highly picturesque, the flat cultivated land near the shores forming a striking contrast to the barren hills on the outside of the forts; the hills in the distance appear to encircle the extensive plain, and although like the others just extensive plain, and although like the others just noticed particularly barren, yet make a fine background to the picture. A few miles further up the river, the shipping in Blenheim and Whampoa reaches come into view; the celebrated Whampoa Pagoda, and several others of less note, besides numerous other towers and juss-houses, all remind numerous other towers and joss-houses, all remna the traveller that he is now approaching the far-famed city of Canton, one of the richest and most important cities in the celestial empire. The noble river, by its numerous ramifications, now forms many islands—on one of which the small town or village of Whampoa is built, but the truant streams return again to the parent, and flow together into the sea at the Bogue.

Large quantities of rice are grown, both on the islands formed by the river, and on the flats on the mainland; the tide is kept out by embankments, where of course the ground can be overflowed at will. These embankments are not allowed to be idle, but are made to produce crops of plantains, as well as to preserve the ground from the inundations of the tide. the land is too high to be overflowed by the tide, the water-wheel is brought into play, and it is perfectly

satonishing how much water can be raised by this simple contrivance in a very short space of time.

Sugar-cane is also grown rather extensively near Whampon, and is an article in great demand amongst the Chinese in a raw state. It is manufactured into sugar candy and brown sugar; many kinds of the latter being particularly fine, though not much used by the foreigners who reside in the country; they generally prefer the candy reduced to powder, in which state it is very fine and white. I have not met in any part of the country with our loaf sugar,

and I suppose it is not made.

A great number of the common fruit trees of the A great number of the common fruit trees of the country, are also growing all over the plains and near the side of the river. The Mango, Guava, Wampee (Cookia punctata), Leechee, Longan, Oranges, and Pumelows, are the principal kinds. Besides these, there are the Cypress, Thuja, Banyan, and other kinds of fig trees, and a species of pine, called by the Chinese the water pine, from its growing clawry by the sides of the rivers and canals. The always by the sides of the rivers and canals. The bamboo and a kind of weeping willow, very much like our own, are also frequently met with. The name which the Chinese give to the latter, is the "sighing" willow, coinciding rather curiously with our own term of weeping, and when taken in connexion with the historical fact of the Jews weeping by the streams of Babylon, and hanging their harpsupon the willow tree, show that this tree is regarded as the emblem of sorrow, as universally as the dark and sombre pine and cypress are considered in all countries fit companions to the cemetery and churchyard.

Large quantities of the water lily, or lotus, are grown, both below and above the city, near the sides of the river, and embanked in the same manner as the rice fields. This is cultivated both as an ornamental plant, and for the root, which is brought in large quantities to the markets, and of which the Chinese are remarkably fond. In the summer and autumn months, when in flower, these fields have a gay and striking appearance—but at other seasons, when the leaves and flowers have decayed, the water has a

boats which are moored all along the shore, near the foreign factory. Hundreds of thousands of all kinds and sizes, from the splendid flower-boat, as it is called, down to the small barber's scull, forming a large floating city, peopled with an immense number of human beings. In sailing up the river you may see a very semall boat, perhaps the smallest you ever witnessed, exposed on the water, being nothing more than a few planks scooped out and fastened together. This is the barber's boat, who is going about, or rather swimming about, following his daily avocation of shaving the heads and tickling the cars and eyes of the Chinamen: by the bye, this same barber has much to answer for, for his practice has a most prejudicial answer for, for his practice has a most prejudicial effect upon the eyes and ears of his countrymen. He, however, works his little boat with great dexterity, and with his skull manages to propel himself with ease and swiftness through the floating city of boats, larger and more powerful than his own. Then you see boats of various sizes, such as those at Macao and Hong Kong, covered over, divided into three compartments, and heart remarkably clean and neat partments, and kept remarkably clean and neat. These are hired by either natives or foreigners for going out to the large junks or other vessels moored out in the river, or for short excursions to the Island of Honan, the Fa Te gardens, or such places. centre division forms a very neat little room, having windows in the sides, ornamented with pictures and flowers of various kinds. The compartment at the how is occupied by the rowers, and that at the stern is used for preparing the food of the family to whom the boat belongs.

The boats belonging to the Hong merchants and the large flower-boats are very splendid ones, arranged in compartments like the others, but built in a more superb and costly manner. The English reader must imagine a wooden house raised upon the floor of the boat, having the entrance near the bows; room being left there for the boatmen to stand and row. This entrance being the front, is carved in a most superb style, forming a prelude to what may be seen within. Here numerous lanterns hang from the roof: lookingglasses, pictures, and poetry adorn the sides of these splendid showy cabins, and all the peculiarities of this peculiar people are exposed to our view in these their floating palaces.

Then there are the Chop beats, which are used by the merchants for conveying goods to the ves-sels at Whampoa, passage-boats to Hong Kong and Macao, and various parts of the country. The mandarin boats, with their numerous oars, have a strange appearance as they pull up and down the river; I have seen a single boat of this kind with 40 oars on one side, 80 in all; and the large unwieldy junks for going out to sea. There are various modifications o all these kinds of boats, fitted each for the particular purpose for which it is designed. At festival times, the river has a gay and striking appearance, particularly at night, when the lanterns are lighted, and boats larly at night, when the lanterns are lighted, and boats gaily decorated with them move up and down in front of the factory. The effect produced upon a stranger at these times by the wild and plaintive strains of Chinese music, the noisy gong, the close and sultry air, the strange people, full of peculiarities and conceit, is such as he never forgets, and leaves a kind of mixed impression of pleasure, pity, admiration, and contempt upon his mind. Throughout the whole of this large floating city, the greatest regularity prevails: the large boats are arranged in rows, forming vails; the large boats are arranged in rows, forming streets, through which the small craft pass and repass, like coaches and other vehicles in a large town. The families who live in this manner seem to have a great partiality for flowers, which they keep in pots, either upon the high stern of their boats, or in their little parlours. The Chinese arbor vitæ, Gardenias, Cycas revoluta, cockscombs, and oranges, seem to be the greatest favourites with them. A joss-house...small, indeed, in many cases, but yet an altar...is indispensable to all these floating houses. Here the joss-stick and the oil are daily burned, and form the incense which these poor people offer to their imaginary deity.

Whole streets of wooden houses are also built upon the sides of the river and the numerous canals in the stagnant and dirty appearance, not at all onnamental to the houses round which the lotus grows.

Boats on the Canton River, &c.

One of the most striking sights which meet the eye on the Canton river is the immense number of which these vehicles generally have, they were sup-

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ported upon posts over water, and crowded together in hundreds and thousands, forming crooked and irregular streets, then you have a good idea of the dwelling-houses of the Chinese on the Canton river. Thousands of the inhabitants live and enjoy health and happiness in such places, which, according to our ileas, would soon be graves for Europeans—such is the difference of constitution.

I was much surprised at the old women and young children bathing in the river, which indeed looked like their natural element; and they seemed quite as much at home there as the fishes which swim in the same water. The Chinese boat population are famous for their prowess in and under the water. At Hong Kong a few days ago, when some officers went out to the harhour to take some Chinese thieves. the Chinamen all jumped overboard, and dived out of sight and escaped.

HINT FOR LORD ROSSE. I have just concluded a perusal of the review of Lord Rosse's magnificent telescope, as given in the last number of the North British Review_and an idea has thereby been suggested of greatly enhancing the efficiency of such instruments, which I beg, through you, to submit to his lordship and others engaged in similar undertakings. His lordship's instrument is a Newtonian reflector of immense size, by far the largest ever yet constructed. Now the modification of the reflecting telescope (as well as the Gregorian) it is well known is liable to the formidable objection of the objects being twice reflected before reaching the eye. By each reflection, a large proportion (the reviewer says one-half) of the incident rays are absorbed or lost. To reduce this objection as much as possible, Sir W. Herschel, in his famous forty-feet reflector, has dispensed with the second reflection altogether, by inclining the large speculum so as to throw its focus to one side of the tube—(why not incline it a little further, so as to throw the image out of the aperture of the tube, and thus save the direct rays?) — where the image is directly taken up by the eye-piece, and viewed by the observer's looking in at the edge of the tube. This method again, though it seems one of the reflections, has the disadvantage of distorting the image by the obliquity of the remaining reflection. Now, in such large instru-ments as Lord Rosse's, it occurs to me that the second reflection might be dispensed with, and, at the same time, this excentricity of focus, in the following way Let the focus of the great speculum be continued as it is in the axis of the tube; and let the eye-piece also be fixed in this axis. Again, let a stage or slight couch, supported independently of the tube, and capable of holding a man stretched out upon it, be fixed parallel to and a little under the axis of the tube. On this couch, let the observer recline with his feet towards the speculum, and his eye at the glass of the eye-piece. In this way, the observer would have a very easy posture when once taken, and no more direct rays would be lost, than those intercepted by the back of the little reflector, and its support in ordinary sized Newtonian and Gregorian telescopes, or the back of the head of the observer in the Herschelian. Let us calculate the advantages that might thus be gained even in Lord Rosse's six-fect reflector, and as the obstruction of rays caused by the observer's body, would be the same in all cases, of course a proportionately smaller discount would require to be made for larger specula. Taking the reviewer's own data, Lord Rosse's six-feet reflector has an area of 5,184 square inches; by dispensing with one of the reflections, we increase the efficiency to be equivalent to double this quantity, that is, to 10,368; allowing the odds (368) to go for the difference between the rays intercepted by the little reflector and its stalk in the one case and the observer's body in the other, which is far above the proper allowance, even though he should be of Falstaff corpulency, the advantage of 10,000 over 5,184 will remain.—I am, &c. Speculum.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE prospectus of what is entitled " A Society for the Formation and Support of a Public Gallery of Art in Dublin," has been put into our hands, and we are glad to lend our aid towards spreading intelligence of its laudable, though somewhat limited objects. It seems the proposed Gallery of Art will not com-

prise specimens of the pre-eminent art-Painting: doubtless because good pictures would draw too deep upon Irish patriotism, while plaster-casts of sculpture and architecture will evince its ardour for the encouragement of native genius, and the cultivation of popular taste at far less cost. A people who dedicate so much of their time, energies, and talents, of their pounds, shillings, and pence, to support the arts political, can have little left wherewith to promote any other. This we apprehend, must be the reason why the metropolis of a land which boasts eight million inhabitants a metropolis endowed with an opulent University moreover - does not possess one public Museum either of pictures or sculptures, when English country towns like Oxford, Cambridge, and Liverpool, contain all of them respectable, some of them extensive and valuable collections! But there are symptoms that a better spirit has arisen in the Sister Isle; we trust no indifference about it, from a people otherwise enthusiastic enough, will cause it to evaporate. Several distinguished persons have resolved upon founding such an Institution as may form the nucleus of an Irish National Gallery, and which must at least do them honour, even if its future non-success should disgrace the kingdom. Let their prospectus however speak for itself :-

The establishment of a Public Gallery, for the reception of plaster easts from the great works of sculpture, and of easts and models from those of architecture, seems the most of plaster casts from the great works of sculpture, and of casts and models from those of architecture, seems the most evident and practicable mode of supplying this much felt want. For—as regards sculpture alone, in the works of the Greeks are evidenced the highest mental energies to which Art has ever given the motive; in them are fortunately preserved all the essential qualities, all the immutable principles, which form the groundwork of Art in every branch. Their sublime beauty of form and expression, their consummate technical merit, are the offspring of poetic power, and of deepest scientific study. In the Statuary of the more perfect Italian schools, we have the most striking examples of the valuable results to which the study of those earlier works has led. And, in addition to these, we have an intervening class of Art, of closest interest to ourselves; the immediate product of the Christian belief, the early Italian and Teutonic Sculpture, which, while its strongest characteristic lies in the pure thought and carnest feeling that gave it life, yet owes the very form in which that thought is clothed, more or less, to a traditional acquaintance with the works of the Grecian era.

Thus, through Sculptura we arrive at all that is needed for a first foundation, and the medium of plaster casts enables us to possess, at a comparatively small expenditure, repetitions of its masterpieces in all their original integrity. By the application of the same medium to Akchitecture, we are presented with all which that Art owes to the band of the sculptor; whilst the general proportions and correct idea of each specime can be given with mathematical accuracy in models.

A principle looked on as fundamental by the Society is the chronological arrangement of the collection. By historic and

A principle looked on as fundamental by the Society is the A principle looked on astundamental by the Society is the chromological arrangement of the collection. By historic and respective classification, even the rudest efforts of Archaic Art become useful to illustrate the achievements of the highest periods, and a stronger light is cast upon the philo-sophic researches of the student, whether artist or man of

It were almost superfluous to adduce examples of the efficacy of the means proposed. Yet the many who have visited the Galleries of this kind at Dresden, Munich, Frankfort, Venice, &c, can attest the beneficial influence they have exercised on the public mind; and it cannot be doubted, that to the facility thus afforded to the study and contemplation of true Art, Germany is largely indebted for the fresh vigour with which her Schools have started into life

fresh vigour with which her Schools have started into life within the last few years.

In forming such a collection in Dublin, it is far from being the desire of the Society to confine the sphere of its influence to the bounds of the metropolis. It is its intention to procure mouthly, whenever possible, from the ancient remains, in order to furnish galleries founded in any of the provincial towns, with perfect casts at a much lower price than they could be supplied for under other conditions. And the Society looks forward to assisting by all means within its scope the dissemination of Art in the provinces.

Lords Charlemont, Fingal, and Adare, Serjeant Murphy, M.P., James Emerson Tennent, Esq., M.P., Wyse, Esq., M.P., Prof. MacCullagh, and Dr. Todd, F.T.C.D., are among the council, of which the Marquis of Kildare is president. Ten shillings per annum constitutes a member. The idea of per annum constitutes a member. 'moulds" we think merits general adoption, and indeed a public Gallery of casts on the above plan, is a project we have often recommended as one of great benefit and small expense, and which ought to be adopted in England and Scotland, no less than in Ireland. Many of the finest sculptural and architectural works are, from their being fixtures at Paris, Florence, Rome, Munich, Athens, and elsewhere, almost unknown, except to a few travellers. Casts of them come nearer fac-similes than the best marble copies, and would make them essentially ours, were such a collection of them disseminated by moulds through all the local galleries of the land.

Of the two bronze equestrian statues of the Duken Orleans, from the model of the sculptor Marocheti the one for Algiers has been successfully cast by M. Soyer, and that for the Carrousel, in Paris, is cast with the exception of the horse. Both are of the bronze furnished by the cannon taken at Algiers; and each is of the weight of 16,000 pounds. The Prince is represented in the full uniform of a lieutenant-general,—the left hand holding the reins of a stately hore, and the right his drawn sword. The mont fifteen feet in height .- In M. Soyer's work-shop in the model of another grand equestrian statue, waiting to be also cast in bronze,—that of William the Tacturn, Stadtholder of the Netherlands, made by the Count de Niewerkerque, for the Hague. _At Falaise. a subscription has been opened for the erection of a statue of William the Conqueror, who was, our readers know, a native of that town :-while at Tours, one of the finest of its historical monuments, the Abbeychurch of Saint Julien, of the date of the twelfth century, and in perfect preservation, though serving just now as coach-house and stables, is offered for sale or hire.

The inauguration of the monument erected by the Geographical Society of France, to the memory of the late Admiral Dumont d'Urville, took place, on the 1st inst., at the Cemetery of the South, according to the intention which we had already announced. and in the presence of a crowd of sympathising spectators. The crown was laid upon the bust of the cele-

officer of the Astrolabe.

The Diario di Roma mentions that the public of that capital are flocking to the Quirinal Palace, to examine two rich works, the gift of the King of the French to his Holiness the Pope, -which the latter has placed provisionally there for their inspection. They are very splendid specimens of the royal manufac-tures of France; one from the Sèvres manufactory, being a copy, the size of the original, of Raphael's celebrated picture representing the Holy Family, and known as the Virgin with the Veil. This picture in porcelain is the work of Madame Jacquotot; and its rich frame of gilt-bronze is relieved by various ornaments executed from the designs of M. Klagmann. The arms of the sovereign pontiff, painted in enamel, crown the frame, which is adorned with four medallions, inclosing so many bas-reliefs in porcelain, representing religious subjects. The other work is a large tapestry from the Gobelins, representing St. ohen pressing to his heart the palm of martyrdom, and inclosed in a magnificent frame of wood, gilt,-also surmounted by the pontifical arms.

The King of Prussia has commissioned the Bavarian court painter, Kaulbach, to paint six large pictures, representing the most remarkable events in the history of the world. We think the artist will have a difficulty in selecting his subjects, on such an assumption and under such a limitation; and the first which he has chosen, "The Fall of Babylon," should belong to a larger series than six. The Revue de Paris, speaking of the Prussian monarch's constant endeavours to attract to the common centre of his capital all the men of Germany illustrious in letters, mentions a familiar visit recently paid by that prince to the poet Tieck (one of his pensioners,) unan-nounced, and at a late hour of the evening. It is probable that he caught the poet in his night-cap;at any rate, His Majesty found him, it is said, in dishabille. Seeing the bard's confusion, His Majesty hastened to say-"Pardon me, Herr Tieck, for having called on you in my great coat." After all, however, these familiarities of the elephant are unwieldy things.

Among the honours paid, on the continent, to distinguished men, we may mention that M. Victor Cousin has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres in Stockholm;—that M. Thalberg has been appointed a member of the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples; —and that the astronomer William Beer, the brother of Meyerbeer, has been named by the King of Denmark, knight of the Order of the Dannebrog_and by the King of the Belgians, knight of the Order of Leopold.—The Revue de Paris complains that the honours due to Goethe, on the inauguration of his statue at Frankfort, were grievously curtailed, and the ceremony shorn of its most appropriate splen-

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on of his iled, and te splendours. The universities, it says, had sent no representatives to the ceremony; nor was the actual literature of Germany personated at this festival of poetry—"conscious," says the Revue, "of its own mediocrity, it feared, perhaps, to stand before the great image of Goethe;" while, of the friends who should have helped to give interest to the scene, Tick waskept away by age, Wieland by his political speculations, and Schwanthaler, the sculptor of the statue, by illness.

by illness. Our readers will remember an account given by us, in a previous number of the Athenæum [No. 378,] us, in a previous number of the Atheracum [No. 16, 1] of a munificent contribution to the literature of science, made by Mr. Beaufoy, son of the late Col. Mark Beaufoy, by the gratuitous distribution among scientific men of a splendidly illustrated quarto volume,—the first of three, intended to contain the results of his father's (and other) nautical and hydraulic experiments, and representing a labour of thirty years and a cost of 60,000l. The scientific devotion of the father, the reverence of the son, and the munificence of both, were things well deserving some honourable record; and we notice, with pleasure, some proceedings which took place, last week, in the Court of Common Council of the city of London, both as offering a testimonial of the kind, and furnishing a new example of the liberality of the Beaufoys. The Chairman of the Committee of the City of London School made a report, to the effect that in the month of December last, the Committee "received from Francis Hobler, Esq., a communica-tion, offering for their acceptance a set of steel dies, which he had caused to be cut and engraved, for the purpose of striking a medal commemorating the name of the late Colonel Mark Beaufoy; with a proposal that a medal struck from such dies, and to be called 'The Beaufoy Medal,' should be annually offered in competition amongst the pupils of the offered in competition amongst the pupils of the school as a premium for proficiency in mathematical knowledge; and that such offer of Mr. Hobler, which was also accompanied by a present to the library of the school of the splendid volume in question, was accepted by the Committee with becoming acknow-ledgments for the kind consideration and regard thus exhibited by him towards the school. That, on the occasion of the first presentation of the Beaufoy Medal, on the 26th of July last, the Committee had medal, on the 20th of July last, the Committee had the extreme gratification of being informed, by a public announcement then made by Mr. Hobler, that H. B. H. Beaufoy, Esq., son of the late Colonel Beaufoy, in testimony of his gratification at the respect shown to the memory of his father, and from a desire to promote the object proposed by the beforementioned medal, and to encourage the study of mathematical science, with a view to the practical appli-cation thereof to the use and service of mankind, had authorized him to signify his intention of investing in the public funds, in the names of certain trustees, a sum of money sufficient to produce as dividends the yearly sum of 501, to be applied to the perpetual support of a scholarship, to be called the 'Beaufoy Scholarship,' to be established in connexion with the City of London School, and to be enjoyed by pupils proceeding thence to the University of Cambridge." And that Mr. Beaufoy has since, accordingly, "caused the sum of 1,7171, stock to be purchased in the three per cent. consolidated Bank Annuities (which will yield a net sum of 50l. per annum, clear of any deduction for income tax)," in the names of certain trustees. "In order that the remembrance of so valuable a benefaction may be effectually preserved, and its object be the better promoted by being constantly kept in the view of those for whose benefit it is designed," it was recommended that a tablet, with is designed," it was recommended that a tablet, with a suitable inscription commemorative of the establishment of the 'Beaufoy Scholarship,' and also the armorial bearings of Mr. Beaufoy and of Mr. Hobler, should be placed in a conspicuous part of the school, at the expense of the city, in like manner with the memorials already put up by the Court with respect to the Times Scholarships and other benefactions to the school. It word accurate he said that this rethe school. It need scarcely be said that this re-commendation was warmly adopted; and the thanks of the Court were ordered to be ornamentally written, and presented to Mr. Beaufoy.

Mrs. Hofland, known for so many years as the writer of fictions having a moral and educational purpose,—and who has done good and earnest service in a cause, since better understood and more ably pro-

moted—died, at Richmond, on Saturday last, at the advanced age of seventy-four.—We may mention, too, the death, on the 12th inst., at the age of only forty-four, of Mr. William Grieve,—to whom the lovers of dramatic spectacle have owed so much, for the scenic splendours which have long been among the theatrical temptations at Drury Lane, and more recently at the King's Theatre.

the theatrical temptations at Liny, and the recently at the King's Theatre.

A MS. of one of Shakspeare's plays has at length been discovered,—a contemporary MS. of the two parts of Henry IV. made into one. It was found in the charter chest of an old Kentish family, and is said to exhibit some additional scenes, and a variety of important readings. Mr. Halliwell has the MS. in his hands, and is to edit it forthwith for the Shakespeare Society, as their first publication for the ensuing year. Mr. Collier is understood to have seen it, and to have collated it with the printed text.—In France a discovery has been made, at Clermont, by the librarian, M. Gonod, of fifty unpublished letters of the Abbé de Rancé,— the celebrated reformer of La Trappe, whose life has been published, from the pen of Chateau-briend.

At Angers, the Comte de Quatrebarbes is printing a magnificent edition, in four volumes, of the collected works of King Réné, with portraits, &c.; the proceeds of which he destines to the erection of a statue to the royal poet. The model of the statue has been already made by M. David, of the Institute, (who is himself an Angevin,) and is now exhibiting in the Hotel de Ville of that ancient capital of Anjou.

M. Origin, has lettly visited Landon, for the purpose

M. Orfila has lately visited London, for the purpose of examining the anatomical and pathological collections in our capital, with a view to the creation of a new museum at the School of Medicine in the French metropolis,—for which the valuable collection of Dupuytren will form the basis.

From St. Petersburgh, we learn that the Governing Council of Kiöv has appointed a committee of four learned Russians, to explore the Ukraine, Podolia and Volhynia—for the purpose of copying, from the archives of the various communes and convents, all records of any historical importance. It is expected that this labour will yield a rich harvest of new figure relations to the history of the Consoler.

pected that this labour will yield a Heln larvest of new facts relating to the history of the Cossacks.

The Revue de Paris says, that the poet Béranger writes yet, though he will not publish; and has by him a volume of very remarkable songs which Chateaubriand, Lamartine, and Lamennais, have vainly urged him to send to press. The poet has determined that they shall not see the light until after his death. He is said to be engaged, too, on a work of a very different character, a National Dictionary; which also, is to be reserved for posthumous publication.—A saying is attributed, by the literary gossip of our neighbours, to this bard, in reference to the present abuse of the Feuilleton in France. Madame Amable Tastu compared this portion of the daily journals to the revolutionary conscription, which absorbed the finest youth of France,—as, according to the lady, the feuilleton absorbs its most promising talents. "With this difference," said the celebrated song writer, "that out of the conscription came great generals and marshals of France, while the feuilleton has hitherto produced only the common soldiers of the press."

The very serious difference which has, for the last four months, existed between the advocates of Paris and the Cour Royale, leaving the first chamber of that tribunal without a bar, has been, at length, on the resumption of the court after its vacation, happily brought to a close:—and we can discover nothing in the relative positions of the contending parties to have produced such a consumation which should not have been equally persuasive long ago. It would seem, however, that time, a sense of the very serious inconvenience to the public, and positive wrong to the individual suitor—and probably some other reasons which the lawyers may have found in their bags—have induced a tardy spirit of conciliation. Some complimentary phrases having fallen from the first President and the Procureur-General, on the opening of the Court,—in which a more captious temper would probably have seen little more than words of course,—the Council of Discipline hastened to accept them as reparation; and, reassured on the point of honour, to return to the care of their clients' interest,—and their own. Seriously, we do not think the French bar has come out of this matter with dignity. The point at issue between them and the judge, was not of sufficient

importance to justify their placing the interests of the public in abeyance. No great principle was asserted—no essential prerogative maintained. The body have gained by this secession, nothing, either for others or themselves—not even what they asked for; and have yielded at last to a price no higher, it seems to us, than the President bid, in the first instance, for a reconciliation. The dispute was too much a thing of temper—an affair of personal susceptibility. However, it has "made a good end;" and nothing about the quarrel "so well becomes" the advocates "as their leaving it."

It is not a little amusing to see what curious work our French neighbours make of it, when they attempt

It is not a little amusing to see what curious work our French neighbours make of it, when they attempt to give an account of any of our English customs or institutions,—particularly where these contain in themselves anything exceptional or anomalous. It cannot be denied that, in the following instance, the French writer, whose imagination has been in search of the rationale of a somewhat barbarous practice, has invented a solution rather more creditable than the truth,—and his mistake is an instance, in its small way, of the misconceptions which history makes when she suffers herself to speculate rather than inquire. A correspondent of the Journal des Débats gives an account of the French King's visit to Eton College, and then supplies his countrymen with the following version of the Eton Montem:—"It is at this school that nearly all the youth belonging to the wealthy families of England receive their education; and here, also, are educated the children of noble families with small means. In order to meet the necessary cost for the maintenance of these poor children, a singular custom has been introduced. At a certain period of the year, all the pupils of the college assume the wallet, and go upon the neighbouring highways soliciting alms from the passers-by; and these freely and liberally respond to this appeal for their assistance in defraying the expenses of the college. Each year, it is said, considerable sums are collected, through the medium of this touching custom."

The performances of the English company under Mr. Mitchell will, it is arranged, certainly commence in the course of the present month; the Minister of the Interior having refused the interference, to deprive them of the use of the Salle Ventadour, demanded by the director of the French Opera.

A letter has been received from Dr. Wolff, dated

A letter has been received from Dr. Wolff, dated Bokhara, July 1844, evidently written, as Capt. Grover says, when he considered himself in great danger; it only reached the Captain on the 5th inst., having been previously received open by Col. Shiel; but it adds nothing to our knowledge of the circumstances detailed by correspondence subsequent in date, though earlier published.

GREAT ATTRACTION.—DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK, The TWO PICTURES now exhibiting represent the Interior of the Activation Notes Dance at Paris. Both Pictures are painted by M. Renoux, and exhibit various novel effects of light and shade.— Open from Ten till Four.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—The TRANSFORMATIONS of PROTEUS will be illustrated by the PROTEOSCOPE daily and in the evenings, and continued, with other novelies. The PHYSIOSCOPE, OPAQUE MICROSCOPE, HYDRO-ELECTRIC MACHINE, DIVING BELL and DIVER, DISSOLVING VIEWS, Dr. RYAN'S LECTURE on ACID POISONS and their ANTIDOTES daily, said in the Evenings of Monday, wednesday, and Fridays. Professor BACHHOFFRER'S varied Lectures abound in interesting experiments. Admission, In, Schools Half-Price. The revised CATALOGOE, with the addition of 300 Works of Art recently deposited in the Museum, price 1.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

Geographical Society.—Nov.11.—R. I. Murchison, Esq., President, in the chair.—This being the first meeting of the session, the evening was occupied with reading extracts from letters received during the vacation; among these, one from Capt. Haines, political agent at Aden, contains copies of some Hamyaritic inscriptions, which that officer succeeded in obtaining, and which are now in process of being deciphered by the Rev. Mr. Forster. Capt. Haines has also sent home the second part of his 'Memoirs on the South-East coast of Arabia.'—A letter was also read from the Rev. Mr. Brockman, who was at Beyrout on the 5th Oct. on his way to Arabia, the seat of his intended explorations; at that date he was well.—Count A. Ranuzzi wrote to inform the Society of the establishment at Bologna of a geographical association.—A communication from Lieut. Ruston, late of the 89th Regt., informed the Society of his inten-

tion to start shortly on an exploratory journey into the interior of Africa. He intends landing at the mouth of the Orange River, and proceeding thence inland .-Many other letters were read, the most interesting of which, however, as assuming the form of a Memoir, was from M. A. de Khanikoff, on the now dried-up Tanghi-Daria, formerly a Deltic branch of the Syr or Jaxastes, flowing into the Lake Aral. The first intelligence of the desiccation of this branch of the Syr was brought to Europe by Baron Mayendorff and Prof. Eversmann, who attributed the phenomenon to eva-poration. M. Khanikoff not only proves that this could not be the case, but solves the problem at once by the following fact :- In the year 1815, the Khokanians, informed of the intention of the Khivans to plant colonies on the banks of the Tanghi-Daria, and fearing for the proximity of such troublesome neighbours, erected a strong dyke at the point where this river diverges from the Syr. The communication thus cut off, the existing waters soon flowed off into the Aral, leaving a dry bed, which, in 1820, was converted into a thick forest of Saxaout (Anabasis Amadendra). M. Khanikoff was informed by the late Capt, Conolly, that he had seen with his own eyes the dyke above mentioned, and had examined it in all its details. The last European traveller who saw the Tanghi-Daria, still a well-supplied stream, was the interpreter of the Russian boundary commission of Orenburg, who crossed the stream in 1809, and again in 1810. The subject excited much conversation, and General Monteith said, that the communication with the Caspian of a branch of the Orus, now dry had been cut off in a way precisely similar to that of the Tanghi-Daria. Extracts were also read from a paper by Capt. Postans, being a description of rocks in Scinde.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ... Nov. 6 ... First meeting of the Session. The President, Mr. Warburton, in the chair :- A paper was read entitled 'Observations on the Geology of some parts of Tuscany,' by Mr. W. J. Hamilton, M. P., Sec. G. S .- One of the principal features of the district examined by the author, is the existence of three distinct mountain ridges, extending from N.W. to S.E. by S. parallel to the direction of the main chain of the Apennines, and all belonging to the cretaceous system. The valleys between these ranges are filled with tertiary deposits. Secondary formations form the greater part of the mountainous district of Tuscany, consisting of beds of sandstone, indurated marls and shales, and compact grey lithographic limestone or scaglia. These sometimes alternate with each other, and are variously developed in different localities. Fossils are rare in all of them. The tertiary formations are both marine and freshwater. The marine tertiaries attain a height of nearly 1800 feet in the basin of Volterra, where they consist of beds of blue marl and sandy limestones, capped by shelly limestone. Marine shells are frequent in some of these beds, of which the blue marl is the most extensive, attaining in the locality referred to a thickness of nearly 1000 feet. Selenite abounds in part of it; also beds of rock salt and alabaster, extensively worked, the mines of the latter by means of regularly constructed mining galleries. The other marine tertiary districts are those of Leghorn, Poggebonzi, Sienna, and Val de Chiana. Freshwater tertiaries were noticed in two localities, forming limestones as compact and having the aspect of scaglia, but well characterized by their peculiar organic remains. Extensive posttertiary formations of calctuff occur in the valley of the Staggia and of Elsa, and the beds are in places more than 100 feet thick. The rock called "Gabbro Rosso" by Savi, Mr. Hamilton considers as a metamorphic rock derived from the altered marls and sandstones of the secondary formation, acted on by the protrusion of igneous rocks of the serpentine class, At the junction of the Serpentine and Gabbro, at Monte Catini, is found copper ore (a sulphuret), extensively worked. Besides the serpentine, the quasitrachytic rock called Selagite, and the basalts of Radicofani, are among the igneous rocks of the district. The author concludes with an account of the remarkable boracic acid works at Monte Cerboli, and of the phenomena connected with them. The President announced the resignation of the curatorship of the society, by Prof. Forbes, in consequence of his having been appointed Palæontologist to the Ordnance Geological Survey.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY .__ Nov. 5 .__ The Rev. J. Antrobus in the chair.—In consequence of the darkness of the day, this meeting was held by gas-light. Among plants, perhaps the most remarkable object exhibited was a cut specimen of Renanthera coccinea, from Mrs. Huskisson. This Chinese plant, which is one of the oldest of its class imported by the Horticultural Society, is common near Canton, where it delights to scramble over walls, on which its large spikes of rich scarlet flowers have a very imposing effect. Although Mr. Webster, the gardener, stated that this was the sixth season in which this plant had bloomed successively with him, yet it does not flower in this country with any certainty; and it seems by accident that the desired effect is produced. This is the more to be regretted, for the flowers continue open for a considerable length of time, and are very useful for decoration. A Banksian Medal was awarded. J. Cooke, Esq. received a certificate for a plant of Achimenes picta, in fine bloom; this was stated to have been grown in an intermediate house, the night temperature of which rarely exceeded 55°, and was frequently below 50°. The general impression among cultivators is, that this plant will not produce flowers sufficient at one time to make a first-rate specimen; but half-a-dozen plants in one pot, as profusely covered with bloom as the one sent, would present a beautiful appearance. As a plant for winter deco ration, or cutting for bouquets, it is certainly one of the finest things that has been introduced for a number of years .- From Messrs. Henderson was Eniphyllum truncatum, growing on a block like an Epiphyte, by which treatment it is said to flower much better, and to have a pretty effect.-From the Duke of Sutherland was a beautiful specimen of the famous Cabul Melon, which weighed 5lb. 13oz., and measured 21 inches in circumference. Mr. Fleming, the gardener, stated that he had cut three of the same kind, weighing together 18½ b., from the plants grown in a vinery, under the shade of Vine leaves. The melons he cuts at this season he wraps in paper, and then lays them in a basket, the sides and bottom of which are also covered with paper; he then covers a sheet of paper over the whole, and places the basket in a pine stove for a period of 8 or 10 days, by which means the fruit acquires an excellent flavour, and is esteemed a great acquisition during November. A certificate was awarded .- H. H. Oddie, Esq. sent a green-fleshed Cassawba Melon, weighing 3lb. It was stated to be the produce of a second crop from the same plant .- From Mrs. Waller were specimens of a pear called the Tettenhall, which was stated to be one peculiar to the village of Tettenhall. It is some hardy wilding, unfit to be eaten, being hard and gritty. It was, however, found to be a good baking pear, and useful for preserving. It is an abundant bearer. This pear, which is sometimes also called the 'Girder,' is sent in large quantities to Manchester, where it is used in dyeing buff; the fruit is said to produce the only buff dye that will bear washing without fading. From the garden of the Society were Cypripedium venustum, an oblong scarlet fruit, about 6 inches in length, that was cut from a species of Trichosanthes, sent by Mr. Fortune from the northern parts of China, and a specimen of Lyperia pinnatifida, a plant which everybody can grow, and which would be useful for those who have small greenhouses, as it continues to produce its pretty violet blossoms during the whole year; and the following fruits: -Althorpe Crassane, possessing a rich Crassane flavour, notwithstanding its green appearance, which is against it in the market, where it is not known-a hardy and excellent variety; Forelle or Trout Pear, which is delicate and free from grit; Beurré Diel, rendered melting and much improved in flavour by being kept in a temperature of about 60° for a fortnight previously to its being used. Of Apples there were several sorts, including Dumelow's seedling, a very valuable kitchen fruit.

LINNEAN SOCIETY .- Nov. 5 .- E. Forster, Esq. in the chair .- A paper was read by Prof. E. Forbes, on the Medusa proboscidialis of Forskal. He had found this animal in his voyage up the Mediterranean, off the coast of Lycia. He went into a detailed account of the anatomy, in which he differed from previous authors in assigning to a remarkable proboscidian process developed from the concave under-surface, the function of a stomach. The author had also ob served that this animal had the power of lengthening

or shortening its tentacles, thus rendering the length of these organs quite inconclusive for specific charge ters, or for indicating age.

SOCIETY OF ARTS .- Nov. 6 .- T. Hoblyn, Esq. V. P. in the chair.—Sir I. L. Goldsmid, Bart., Dr. Major, G. Buck and K. Hunt, Esqrs., and Dr. Cronin, were elected members.

elected members.

Nov. 13.—R. Twining, Esq. V.P. in the chair.

On British and Foreign Honey, by Mr. Milton,
Various specimens from Athens, Minorca, Portugal, Narbonne, and different parts of England and Scotland, were on the table; also the produce of bees kept in glass hives by gentlemen in the Temple and the Regent's Park, as well as a single comb taken from a hive so constructed as to direct bees in the disposition of their work. A detailed account was given of the structure of the honey bee, of the mechanical construction of the comb, of the flowers best suited to produce honey of the finest flavour, of the best seasons of the year for taking the honey, of its medicinal qualities for various diseases, of the quality produced in different parts of England under different systems of management, of the encouragement given to cottagers to keep bees by a gentleman in the vicinity of the Westmoreland lakes, and, lastly, of the profit to be derived from bee keeping. A paper was read on the 'Grenier Mobile,' or revo ing granary, the invention of M. Vallery, a French engineer, described ante, p. 957.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Asiatic Society, 2, P.M. Statistical Society, 8.

Mox. Statistical Society, 8.

Table Table

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL COMPOSERS. DANIEL FRANÇOIS ESPRIT AUBER

THE present is no unfit moment to attempt a sketch of this distinguished composer, whose position seems to us as unique as his merit. It may be questioned whether there be a single French, German, or English town (of self-engrossed, indolent Italy we must speak less confidently,) to which the opera-music of M. Auber has not penetrated. He stands in the same category, though not on the same level, as Weber and Yet never has a distinguished and elegant genius been so little talked about, or his works so neggently and unfairly discussed. We believe that were M. Auber-according to the locomotive fashion of the time-to go forth on his travels, his arrival or departure would excite comparatively little interest, his universal reputation considered. In short, he is a notable example of popularity distinct from

In England, it requires some hardihood to treat M. Auber seriously : so eager are we, under pretence of taste, to narrow our pleasures! Yet as the true lover of Nature can admire a cedar and a mountain ash, an Alp white with snows and a meadow all silver and gold with spring flowers, why may we not recognize in Art the graceful and piquant, as well as the stern and expressive? Everything complete in itself, and containing a clearly-marked individuality, is worthy of praise and patient attention; though the rank it holds in the great scale of Truth and Beauty be lower or higher, as the case may be.

M. Auber is one of those artists whose career must puzzle such fa presto gentlemen of the present day, as expect that all genius should be prodigious, early, and perfect in the production of its contributions Born at Caen in the year 1784, his life as a dramatic composer did not fairly begin till he had almost reached the age at which Mozart and Weber died. It is true that, as a young man, M. Auber had gained the dangerous honours of dilettantism by some pretty vocal romances. He had further, M. Fétis tells us, written for his friend, M. Lemare, the violoncellist, certain concertos (or rather put the solo-player's ideas into shape), which were well approved of under the shelter of the executant's name. There is also a tradition of an old opera, 'Julie,' re-set by him; and of a musical drama concocted for the drawing-room theatre of M. le Prince de Chimay. Subsequently, M, Aube pupil years his 'l ment temp succe such not t them Fr

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imitation of his artifices and mannerisms. Accordingly, for a while, the Frenchman, whether politi-

cally or from an honest admiration, made his way by

cally or from an honest admiration, made his way by an adoption of the fashionable for-istric...—some good morecans: in 'La Neige,' 'Le Maçon,' and 'La Fiancé' being all that need be specified,—till, in 'La Muette' (produced in 1828), and in 'Fra Diavolo' (1829), the composer may be fairly said to have established himself on ground of his own. From that period to the present, the European currency of M. Auber's works has steadily increased: there has

been time enough, too, to prove that their reputation has not been the mere fashion of a moment, but is a

has not been the mere fashion of a moment, but is a living thing, likely to retain a certain permanent hold upon the public. We may name—not pretending to offer a complete list—the grand operas, 'Gustave' and the 'Lac des Fées,' and—to avail ourselves of the French distinction—the comic operas, 'Lestocq,' 'Actéon,' 'L'Ambassadrice,' 'Le Cheval de Bronze,' 'La Philtre,' 'Le Serment,' 'La Bayadère,' 'Le Domino Noir,' 'Zanetta, 'Les Diamans de la Couronne,' 'Le Duc d'Olonne,' 'La Part du Diable,' and lastly, 'La Sirène.' Of many of these works and their success, our correspondents have spoken: a

their success, our correspondents have spoken: a few general remarks and characteristics, however,

The elegance of M. Auber's fancy will be disputed by no one, however apt some amongst us may be to over-look its variety, and limit its fruits to what they call

clever ballet-music. That this, moreover, depends not

on the inspiration of the scene-painter, or scene-poet, is proved by his orchestral preludes or overtures, in the

commencement of almost every one of which there is a gracious idea. We need but recall the march which opens 'Fra Diavolo,' the strain beginning the overture to 'Gustave,' (which subsequently, as is too often the

case with our author, degenerates into a romping galopse), the stately but simple dancing measure which in 'Le Domino' prepares the listener for an opera beginning in a Spanish ball room; and the sweetly flattering introduction to 'Les Diamans.' Every one of

these, too, is scored with a contrast and a delicacy,

the very case whereof has caused its exquisite art to be forgotten. The originality of M. Auber's instru-

mentation has been somewhat overlooked, because it

is always pleasing: whereas others have put in no other claim to novelty than that perverse oddity, which shocks rather more than it "enchants the ear." Next, we may consider M. Auber as a melodist; a cha-

racter not easy to analyze, inasmuch as critics must judge by sympathy, as well as standard. We have known some (and great) masters unable to abide one particular key, or interval, or rhythm: then, as to

associations of vulgarity, &c., since these depend on the fashion of the hour, and in Music not a little on the

span of its immediate popularity, what can be so fluctuating, and therefore so hard to define? Else-

where we have taken occasion to observe that the French have a way of their own, which is to pique, in place of satisfying the ear, and that, therefore, many of their tunes have a certain artificial air as

compared with the tunes of Italy and Germany : _this

being, again, heightened, by the national propensity

have still to be offered.

Lsq. V. P. Major,

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* At the very moment of writing, 'Le Maçon,' which has been a stock piece in many German opera houses—that at Berlin among the number—has been revived, and with great applause, at its birth-place, the Opéra Comique.

Anher studied under Cherubini, and the fruit of his pupilage was a mass, from which the composer some pears afterwards drew some of the grave portions of his 'Muette.' But it was not till 1819 that derangement of the family fortunes induced him seriously to avail himself of the talent with which Nature had so liberally gifted him. He began to write for the Opéra Comique; and, after having failed in a one-act attempt, 'La Testament,' he produced, in 1820, 'La Bergere Chatelaine,' and in 1821, 'Emma; 'La He Sons of the Night,'—the vocal quartet in 'Lestocq,'—Angela's delicious romance' Le trouble et la frayeur,' in 'Le Domino,'—and, in another style, the listy though somewhat irreverent troll given to Gil Perez in the second finale of the same opera. The success of which, though both are now torgotten, was such as to assure the public that the Grétrys and Dalayracs and Boieldieus of their pleasantest, if not their most pompous musical theatre, would be succeeded by a composer little inferior to the best of Gil Perez in the second finale of the same opera. The partizans of the dull and heavy may shake their solemn heads when these things are performed. We must listen; and cannot, therefore, help a grateful them.

From the old and true French taste, however, M.

Auber is thought to have been seduced by the arrival
of Rossini at Paris. Just then, indeed, there seemed
but two courses with respect to the fascinating composer of 'il Barbiere:' either the prejudiced and wholesale contempt shown him by the Germans, or a direct

Once more, M. Auber's knowledge of the stage is Once more, M. Auber's knowledge of the stage is admirable,—we might almost say, in the present day, incomparable. No contemporary is so nice and happy as himself in the management of simple materials; a task far more difficult than the production of effect by huge masses of chorus, with corresponding bursts of orchestra. It is generally understood that the adjustment of his libretti is, in good part, his own doing: happy musician to have for fellow-labourer, such an admirable partner as M. Scribe! Let us but cite an example or two: first, the opening terzetlo of cite an example or two: first, the opening terzetto of the delicious 'Domino,' commencing with its accom-paniment behind the scenes, the formality of which the dialogue between the two ladies breaks so happily,— and flowing into that elegant phrase à tre, than which nothing can be more captivating or melodious. A prettier, more picturesque, and more probable commencement for a comic opera was never written;—every musical requisition, moreover, being as rigorously complied with, as if the piece were one of those inter-polations into the action of the story, brought in to conciliate the singers, the use of which in Opera must every day become rarer and more rare. Then, while, like the true French composer which he is, M. Auber makes perpetual use of the couplet, his nice tact in varying this, is a model for our ballad writers, who repeat the same phrase three times over in one verse, and the same verse three times over, (not counting encores) without the slightest variation in management or accompaniment. We may specify the con-cert scene in 'Les Diamans,' where the Spanish romance is so admirably heightened by its symphony of anticipatory interruptions,—and the air given to Zerlina in 'La Sirène, in which, on its repetition, the lover's voice bears a part from the upper scene. The extreme neatness with which these combinations are managed conceals their artifice, the exquisite temper of every link blinds one to the strength of the chain; and their value, perhaps, is only to be fully appreciated by comparing the concerted music of M. Auber with those of his imitators. The best French comic opera heard after one of his sounds poor, patchy, and improbable; while the most extravagant tale set by him is so smoothed and sweetened as to pass, while it is being sung before us, as natural; and its flagrancies and fallacies are only detected by after

On the whole, then, it is our judgment, that not merely are the operas of M. Auber enchanting and pleasant to hear, but that they are eminently commendable as studies for all who would write for the stage. Charm of effect and height of finish were possibly never more perfectly combined than in their better portions. It is true that the composer has made his concessions to his prima donna and his public; and that the character of his melodies is too individual to bear imitation; but these reserves allowed their fullest value,—there remains enough of what is sound and substantial for composers to ponder on, as well as for audiences to enjoy.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.—A decision which, it is said, has been come to within the last few days, by the Directors of this misdirected Society, is too extraordinary to be passed over without comment. Every one hasheard of the Italian peasant, who, having

the constitution of their society—merely getting rid of the dilemma in the case of Dr. Mendelssohn, as an exceptional instance, made, in a death-struggle, for the sake of securing the aid and the attraction of the greatest European instrumental composer—the Directors are said to have offered the conductorship Directors are said to have offered the conductorship of the entire series of next year's concerts to a gentleman whom, a few years since, they black-balled when he was candidate for a membership—none other than Signor Costa! Now we must warmly, and once again, as we have often done before [vide p. 603], express our high esteem for this gentleman, as admirable in his own walk; experienced and strict as a conductor of Italian theatrical music—and as a man honourable clear of the restrictions. as a man honourably clear of the petty intrigues which have so frequently disgraced those holding his position. These gifts and good qualities, however, do not make the Philharmonic election less nowever, do not make the Philharmonic election less comical:—we wish it may not prove less dissertous. As a composer, Signor Costa has no reputation to warrant the infringement of the society's custom. He may follow the path of his great countryman Cherubini, it is true, who also began writing for the London Haymarket. He may give us great overtures, operas, masses, &c.; but, at present, he can only rank in science among the Mercadantes of modern Italy and in Functor recovery very behind. Italy, and, in European renown, very far behind them. Yet, what would be the outery raised at the bare idea of Mercadante conducting one single concert, were he here as "a star"! As a conductor of sym-phonic and instrumental music....which, be it remembered, is all but exclusively German—Signor Costa has not only to establish his claims, but to work against an unfavourable impression. The very nationality which makes him give such life to the faded and frivolous codas of the modern Italian preludes, and spirit to their coarse or meagre accompaniments by an ex-cessive pungency of emphasis, impels him also more or less to spoil by exaggeration the operas of Mozart, when they fall under his care; and, if applied to one of Beethoven's symphonies, would be fatal. Farther, M. Moscheles, who was present when most of the last-named master-works were performed, and some of them produced, in presence of the composer

or M. Benedict, who was Weber's pupil, and
has his traditions — or Mr. W. S. Bennett, who
has studied at the feet of Mendelssohn, and is well-imbued with the good Leipsig fashions, and the sound Leipsig love of all the great German composers. It can be, then, extremity, as little as celebrity, which has driven the Directors to a choice as strange, as was their own gross discourtesy to its object but a few years since. The only solution we can offer for a proceeding calculated to be so outrageously unpopular, both with Germans and Engrageously unpopular, both with Germans and Englishmen, lies in its being a first step towards making the Philharmonic Concerts a dependency on the Opera House, for the sake of securing the services of the Italian singers. If this be so, the confession of weakness, thus implied, is in every way as humiliating as it is gratuitous; and such small additional attraction as is to be gained by the intermixture of a few backed out opera eight and recognized in the present of hacked-out opera airs and graces (not enacted in costume), is very dearly purchased by a measure, which, even if musically successful, seems at once foolishly inconsistent and needlessly offensive.

The French musical journals speak rapturously of their oratorio on the 1st of November: those who were present, however, describe the performance as weak and unsatisfactory; and there would have been but a very small surplus for the charity of artist-musicians, had not the hospitals waived the tithe which cians, had not the hospitals waived the tithe which they can claim on the receipts of all theatrical performances, and the members of the Royal family, and some of the principal nobility come forward with subscriptions. Nevertheless, that there is a certain tendency in our neighbours to the oratorio form of music, is past doubt. M. Kastner, by whom a comic opera of some promise has been given, announces a grand concert performance on the 24th, to introduce the music of a sagged darma called 'The Lust King the music of a sacred drama, called 'The Last King of Judah.' Some new monster manifestations too, on the part of M. Berlioz, are expected during the winter. A conservatoire, on the plan of the Paris establishment, is about to be opened at Nantes. We prayed for miraculous aid to mount his ass, leaped so high that he fell "on the other side," remarking "that when the Lady of Loretto was good, she was too good!" After having, for years, set their faces against a permanent conductor, rendered impossible, it was said, by

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not pointing to this restricting influence without an eye to home affairs. We do not wish to find copies of our unsatisfactory Royal Academy at Birming-ham, Liverpool, Manchester or Bristol; yet we are sure that the public and the profession might alike gain, by some wisely considered measure of the kind, carried out in our great towns. Meanwhile, France is about to send over another English prima donna, Miss Helen Condell, to the Oxford Street opera. The lady, we believe, has never performed at Paris, but has been successful at Rouen, and in other parts of France. It is said, too, that Madame Albertazzi is also engaged at the same theatre. The concert world will, to all appearance, be in some distress this winter. Have we no tenor voices worth training?— There is not much other news from abroad. The manager of the Italian Opera is said to be travelling in quest of novelty; and it seems generally understood, that Madame Persiani is to be one of the artists replaced: —we cannot conceive by whom, unless it be La Signora Tadolini, of whose powers as an executive singer we have heard a promising report. But opera speculations may be thought somewhat premature. Meanwhile Mdlle. Elssler is dancing with her usual faery-tale success at Munich, and M. Moscheles is making a satisfactory artistic progress through Wurtemburg and Bavaria, towards Vienna We are glad, too, to record that the King of Denmark has issued two ordinances for the encouragement of Music within his dominions. The first directs the creation of a Royal Conservatory of music in the capital, for fifty pupils,—thirty male and twenty female—and having for its especial object the supply of the National and Royal theatre. This institution is placed under the direction of M. Gläser, the musical director of that theatre; and is to be in activity by the 1st of March, in next year .- The second ordinance prescribes that singing shall be taught in all schools in towns, and, as far as may be, in those of villages .- The municipality of the same capital have engaged an Italian operatic company for the winter; and the king has assigned for their performances the Court Theatre in the Christiansburg Palace,-where they were to commence operations on the 7th inst.

SADLER'S WELLS .- Massinger's Comedy of 'The City Madam' presents such obvious difficulties to its revival on the modern stage, that the adaptation, in three acts, by Sir J. B. Burges, under the title of 'Riches,' has generally been substituted. This arrangement was felt to be unsatisfactory, and we were not sorry when something better was proposed; something, as we thought, more like the original, and only so altered, as to be cleansed of grossness and reduced within compass. We never contemplated, however, such an alteration as among the possibilities of dramatic literature, as that now enacting at this theatre. Had the adapter, like Sir J. B. Burges, or like Mr. Sheridan Knowles, in the case of 'The Bridal,' produced his arrangement under a new title, we should have permitted him perhaps the licence taken by Mr. Howard Payne, in his 'Brutus;' but, while retaining the old title, the present adapter has gone beyond all previous example in the freedom of his corrections. In all the instances we have mentioned, the received characters of 'Brutus,' of 'Melantius,' and of 'Luke,' have been held sacred; in the present case, however, the very spirit and individuality of the part have undergone a "sea change." We do not deny that an effective drama has been produced by the audacious profanity of which the unknown adapter has been guilty, but we do hope that our literary associations will no more be trifled with in like manner. At a time when the critics are contending for implicit reverence to the genius of Shakspeare, and demanding the restoration to the stage of his divine dramas according to the original text, shall we begin to palter with that of other dramatic poets, and extend the corruption one way as fast or faster than we correct it in the other? This, indeed, were an anomalous mode of proceeding, and we demand of the management of this theatre, whether it is not fair that our dramatic libraries should remain at least the index to theatrical performances; and not that, when we visit the theatre to see, as announced, some fine old play performed in its integrity, we should meet something essentially different, though, as if to add more vexation to the sin, so many of the parts remaining the

same, that the mind is perplexed and confused between its recollections and present impressions; and an evening meant for a refined pleasure is sacrificed to a provoking disappointment. Having a strong feeling on this point, we have expressed it strongly.

There are veterans of the sock and buskin yet living to whom the theatrical world must appear turned upside down. The present week supplies striking proofs of the altered state of the stage. An English company of tragedians, headed by Mr. Macready and Miss Helen Faucit, is summoned to meet, preparatory to proceeding to Paris, there to play Shakspeare in English to French audiences. Covent Garden opens for Promenade Concerts, Drury Lane being already devoted to opera and ballet; and a provincial manager opens the little Olympic with Shakspeare inscribed on his banner, a transatlantic Romeo of stentorian lungs, and a ci-devant "infant phenomenon," for the Juliet: and the Queen is compelled by custom to forego the gratification of hearing Mdlle. Nau, and compelled by custom to give the preference to the performance of a French opera at a theatre whose patent privilege was granted for the purpose of promoting that very "legitimate drama" which is driven to take refuge in suburban and small theatres, or to seek in foreign countries the fashionable patronage denied it at home. At the same time French melodramas overrun the English stage; and a dozen different theatres find 'Don César de Bazan' attractive, though not one of them can boast an actor competent to personate the hero properly! Whether these be signs of transition to a better or worse state of things, we will not pretend to determine; it is sufficient for us to note these strange symptoms, the origin and remedy for which we have often before adverted to. The announcement of a new comedy at the Haymarket, and of a new play at Sadler's Wells, show that the English drama is not quite extinct; though there is little vitality to be looked for in these well-meant efforts to perpetuate old forms. That opera is in the ascendant, the hundredth representation of the 'Bohemian Girl,' and the success of almost any musical piece with a tolerably intelligent story, and some singable tunes, are proof sufficient. Meanwhile burlesques and ballets are the favourite afterpieces; and, however absurd the incidents, a clever parody and a pretty dance, though indifferently executed, please the audience whose patience is secured by the showy dresses and beautiful scenery of the spectacle. There are two or three Scenes in a puerile ballet, called 'The Enchanted Bell,' at the Princess's, that make the spectator wish the dancers away, that he might see them to better advantage. They are painted by Mr. Beverley, a name new to the town, but whose talent is likely to render him a worthy successor to Stanfield.

The present anomalous state of the English drama, and the desolate condition of Covent Garden Theatre, appears much to affect those who are interested in the prosperity of both. An advertisement for a dramatic Art-Union has appeared within these few days in which we are informed that a plan is in preparation, under distinguished patronage, to re-open Covent-garden Theatre, at an early period, for the revival of the classical drama. It is proposed to carry out this object by means of a "Dramatic Art Union, that is to say, allowing a certain number of tickets of admission for each guinea subscribed, with other advantages, which will be described in the forthcoming prospectuses." Who the parties are to this scheme we know not: but we need more experience in the working of art-unions, and much greater assurance than has yet been granted of their beneficial operation, to justify our entertaining confidence in any novel application of the system.

MISCELLANEA

Copyright.—With reference to, and in confirmation of, your remarks [ante, p. 927] on the impolicy of admitting single copies of a pirated edition, I would observe, that it makes little difference to the party beneficially interested, whether copies from the foreign market come in to replace his own through the medium of the bookseller or of the traveller. It was, in a great measure, to prevent these very parties from seeking their books in foreign markets rather than at home, that, after long complaint and re-

monstrance, the Protection Act in question was passed; and to set instantly about relax sions, in favour of a class or an individual, is an instance of doing with one hand and undoing with the other, the folly of which will be equalled only by the impudence which asks the author to be a party to it. Let in, forsooth, for his own library, the single copy of the "nobleman or gentleman" memorializing the Treasury !- as if the author's returns were not collected ultimately by means of the "single copy"if the "single copy" were not the elements of his profit. The loss to the latter, too, in each individual case of "licence" will far exceed the amount of obligation which he confers. The gain to the party obliged is the few shillings that may happen to constitute the difference between the price in the foreign and home markets; while the loss to the proprietor is the whole home-price of the book ;_the rest goes into the pocket of the foreign pirate. Nor is this the extent of the pecuniary injury which parties asking an author, under this exception, to waive his right, demand that he should incur. The author's standing with his publisher depends on the number of copies of any work of his which the latter can sell; and the money-value of his future labours, in the form of copyright, is directly regulated by that condition. But there is another very serious objection to such an exception from the provisions of the Act,-it has the taint upon it of that differential imposition, which is too much the spirit of English legislation. ment a fiscal act is passed, men, agreed perhaps on its general propriety, and who would be ashamed to ask you in terms for five shillings, set about devising how its provisions may be evaded by themselves, or its pressure mitigated in their own favour. The man of moderate means must buy his books in the homemarket, at the price which the author or his assigns have a right to demand; while, under this saving clause, the man of higher fortunes, who can indulge in the luxury of travelling, may, also, furnish his English library from abroad, at the reduced price at which the pirate can afford to sell. Legislation becomes, under exceptions like this, not a mere nullity, but something worse. I hope to see the Act strictly enforced; and more especially, if any difference at all were allowable, precisely against such parties as those claiming this partial exemption. - AN AUTHOR.

Impressions of Ireland.—Mr. Grant presents his complinents to the Editor of the Athenceum, and would feel obliged if he would allow him to mention, that the ludicrous errepointed out in the Athenceum's review, last week, of Mr. Grant's new work on 'Ireland and the Irish,' was made by the printer, and not by Mr. Grant. Instead of the try at Muckross Abbey growing "five or six miles" from the walls, Mr. Grant wrote five or six feet.

Monument to the Memory of the Commander of the President Steamer, Captain Roberts.—The Cork Re-porter contains the following interesting account of a monument, with a striking and touching inscription, lately erected in the churchyard of Passage:-" The cenotaph is a large square building of rich cut stone, with a fine base and cap moulding, and having a bold pediment on either side. The design is appropriate, chaste and elegant. On the angles of the monument are represented, in strong relief, the sterns of the vessels which Captain Roberts commanded,-viz, the Black Joke, the Sirius, the British Queen, and the President. The following is the inscription which the monument bears:—'This stone commemorates, in the churchyard of his native parish, the merits and premature death of the first officer under whose command a steam-vessel ever crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Undaunted bravery exhibited in the suppression of the slave traffic in the African seas, enter-prise and consummate skill in the details of his profession, recommended him for that arduous service. Lieutenant Richard Roberts, R.N., in accomplishing it, not only surpassed the wildest visions of former days, but even the warmest anticipations of He gave to science triumphs she had not dared to hope, and created an epoch for ever memorable in the history of his country and of navigation. The thousands that shall follow in his track, must not forget who it was that taught the world to traverse with such marvellous rapidity the highway of the ocean; and who, in connecting in a voyage of a few days the eastern and western hemispheres, has for ever linked his name with the greatest achievements of navigation since Columbus first revealed Europe and America to each other. God, having v. 16

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py"_ indivipermitted him this high distinction, was pleased to decree that the leader of this great enterprise should also be its martyr. Lieutenant Roberts perished, with all on board his ship, the President, when on her voyage from America to England. She was lost in the month of March, A.D. 1841. As the gallant seaman under whose guidance was accomplished an undertaking, the result of which centuries will not exhaust, it is for his country.—for the world—to remember him. His widow, who erects this melancholy memorial, may be forgiven, if to her these claims are lost in the recollection of that devotedness of attachment, that uprightness and kindness of spirit, which. ment, that uprightness and kindness of spirit, which, alas! for three brief years, formed the light and joy of her existence."

Trades Exhibition at Berlin.—The exhibition closed in Berlin, on the 24th ult., having been open upwards of two months; and the objects composing it are about to be distributed by lottery—the tickets for which, 8000 in number, are all taken. The number of prizes is 3,200.—Our attention has been number of pizzes is 3,200.—Out attention has been made in connexion with this exposition. At a banquet given in honour of the exhibitors, by the committee for the encouragement of industry,—at which the privy-councillor Beuth presided, and the ministers, high functionaries, and several members of the diplomatic body were present—a proposition was made that a committee should be formed for the ameliora-tion of the material and moral condition of the work-The organization of this association is to be as follows:—A central committee, sitting at Berlin, is to communicate with provincial and local committees—each committee, nevertheless, acting with entire independence. It is recommended, however, that each shall establish savings-banks, schools, and pension-funds for the maintenance of the sick and aged. Each committee is to raise its own funds by assessments among its own members, and such donations as it can obtain, but where these are insuffitions as it can obtain,—but where these are insufficient, the provisional committees, or, if need be, the central committee will supply what is wanting. The central committee will establish in each province a provincial bank, which shall pay the workman a rate of interest higher than the legal, and offer ample guarantees for the security of his principal. The provincial committees are to encourage the formation of local committees and aid them with their counsel and their action. Every member of a local committee must be a subscriber. The central committee will keen up a regular correspondence with the prowill keep up a regular correspondence with the provincial and local committees, and publish, at stated periods, an account of its proceedings. For this purpose, the provincial and local committees shall ly it with all documents and information relating supply it with all documents and information relating to the results which they may have severally obtained; and, "as the moral and material well-being of the working classes is one of the most important questions of the day," the central committee will put itself in communication with all the German States—for the purpose of inducing the establishment, in each, of kindred committees, to be in correspondence with itself. Finally, at the periods of the Exhibitions of the Customs Union, the members of the central committees. mittees of Germany shall hold a general assembly, for the purpose of exchanging the results of their several experiences, and thence deducing rules for the ulterior development of the institution.—There can be no doubt that an organization like this, widely established, and working in good faith, offers a powerful instrument of social improvement. The parties, embracing men of all ranks, seem at present much in earnest. Subsequent meetings have been held—at one of which the statutes of the institution were discussed, adonted, and referred to the greenwise. discussed, adopted, and referred to the governing authorities; and at another, it was expressly recognized as a leading object of the association, to secure to the artizan a price for his toil which shall be equal to the supplying of his necessities.

supplying of his necessities.

Atmospheric Locomotives.—The Paris papers mention that M. Andraud, who has hitherto been encouraged and supported in all his experiments by the government, has applied for a concession of about two leagues near Paris, on the Saint-Denis line, connecting some of the villages with the other railroads. M. Andraud, as our readers are aware, has performed successfully some experiments on the Versailles railroad (left bank), and no doubt is entertained of his being able to replace steam by compressed atmobeing able to replace steam by compressed atmo-

spheric air, but it is a question whether this can be done with economy, for, if steam power be used to compress the air, the working of locomotives on this system would be more expensive than by steam. He states, however, that he can compress the air almost without cost by wind or water mills, and in that case the saving would be very great.

Buried Treasure. - The Nouvelliste Alenconnais gives a curious account of excavations which have been, at different times, undertaken, and are now again renewed, near the little country town of Saint Come, on the Mont-Jalu, in search of an Saint Come, on the Mont-Jang, in scarch of an alleged buried treasure. An ancient tradition, confirmed it is said by documentary evidence, asserts that, at a certain spot in the very heart of the mountain, twelve massive statues, six gold and six silver, representing the twelve apostles, in the life size, were buried, during the troubled times of the revolution. Thirty years ago, says the provincial account, the father of Mdlle. Léontine Fay, determined to possess himself of this treasure, bought the mountain and set his excavators to work; but abandoned the search, after an expenditure of 200,000f.! Other explorers have followed, and other sums been sunk, in the vain search after the graven images; but of late, the Apostles of Mont-Jalu have been left to of late, the Apostles of Mont-Jalu have been lett to the keeping of their own impenetrable mystery. Now, however, a company has been formed for their resuscitation; and science has been called in to aid the French Dousterswivels. Their faith, however, is not in the old divining-rod—but in the modern divina-tion of animal magnetism. A young girl and a young man have been thrown into magnetic sleep, upon the mountain; and they have vouched for the exist-ence of the statues and the success of the excavation. M. Fav has, however, written a letter to a Paris M. Fay has, however, written a letter to a Paris journal, in which he qualifies his share in the statement in question,—reducing his alleged outlay of 200,000f, in the experiment, to 9,500. He has no objection he says, to accept his portion of the ridicule thrown upon the magnetisers, which he will have to divide with so many honourable men"—but he has a great objection "to pass for a fool,"—which he seems to dread, might attach to him only because of the alleged amount.

Earthquakes .- Letters from Italy state, that the continued shocks of earthquake by which, for more than a year past, the city of Ragusa has been dis-turbed, have created very serious alarm;—and it is in contemplation to evacuate the well-known place, and build a new Ragusa on some better protected spot of the Dalmatic shore.

A Century of Law.—A Spanish journal announces that the famous law-suit, to which we have before now alluded, depending, for the last ninety-three years, between the ducal families of Frias and Osuna, and involving an immense territorial property, together with the title of Duke d'Osuna itself—has been at length decided in favour of the latter house :- but as it is not very long since the press of Madrid an-nounced an exactly opposite conclusion, we cannot, of course, undertake to decide between the contending versions.

Mud Baths ... The Russian journals are filled with accounts of the marvellous cures effected by the mud baths of the lake of Eupatoria, in the Crimea. This saline water, six versts only from the Black Sea, and forty-five from the Russian town of Eupatoria, dries up during the summer heats, leaving a thick, stagnant slime, in which the sick, whom medicine has failed to cure, plunge their afflicted bodies; and in its hot mire their pores distend, absorbing the saline gases, which are said to have a wonderful virtue for the purification of the blood. At the village on the lake, called Sak, which is frequented by the bathers, a magnificent hotel has been erected,—offering every luxury as an accompaniment to the mud bath; and among the Russian fashionables, the muse,—made up of the love of excitement, and the superstitious search after health, which, in all countries, carries men from the Abanas and Pharpars at their door to some distant Jordan,—is all, just now, in the direction of the lake of Eupatoria.

To Correspondents.—F. L.—L. C*r—A. R. A.—received. We have no means of answering the question of J. B.—We will publish the letter signed 'A German,' and dated Holloway, if the writer will put his mem to it. His character and that of the Athengum will then be fairly at issue.

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